

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Middle East
SUBJECT Transmittal of Literature

DATE DISTR. 27 June 1949

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE
ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS. 21
(LISTED BELOW)

25X1A
DATE
ACQUIRED

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE
OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT 50
U.S.C. 31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION
OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PRO-
HIBITED BY LAW. REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED. HOW-
EVER, INFORMATION CONTAINED IN BODY OF THE FORM MAY BE UTILIZED
AS DEEMED NECESSARY BY THE RECEIVING AGENCY.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION FOR THE RESEARCH
USE OF TRAINED INTELLIGENCE ANALYSTS

SOURCE

The attached material is being sent for your retention in the
belief that it may be of interest:

1. Translations of Turkish Press Items.
2. Daily Reviews of the Syrian Press.
3. Reviews of the Local Arabic Press, Beirut, Lebanon.

These attachments are of a free classification.

25X1A

25X1A

CLASSIFICATION RESTRICTED

State Dept. review completed

BEST COPY
Available

U A T U

26 May 1949.

1. The students of Higher Education Schools in Istanbul and Ankara will organize a meeting to-day and to-morrow, respectively, to protest the recent incident against the Turkish football players in Greece.
2. Necmeddin Adak has recovered from a fit of malaria and will be back at work within the next one or two days.
3. The Turkish Aviation League opened its XI th Congress in Ankara yesterday. From the report of its President, Sükrü Sokmazlar, Deputy for Gazişehir, it is learned that during the past two years the steady drop in the League's income has been forestalled. The income for 1947 was TL 5,685,386. and that for 1948 it was TL 4,343,040. During the past two years, the Plane Factory repaired 318 planes and 308 engines; it produced 10 Magister planes on the assembly line system, 12 acrobatic planes, and 10 training gliders.
4. A delegation of private shipowners has arrived in Ankara for contacts with the Ministry of Communications. The shipowners are asking for more foreign exchange with which to buy ships from abroad. They are also interested in reaching an agreement with the firms which will provide them with coal after 1 June when the restrictions on freight rates will be lifted.
5. The State Seaways Administration has established lower rates for the Turkish boats servicing the eastern and western Mediterranean. According to the new rates, passage on the KILIÇ and the İSTANBUL will be 15 - 20 % cheaper than with competing boats of foreign companies.
6. Youngman Feridun who was arrested in Bursa on charges of Communism, has been found guilty and sentenced to 5 months in prison.

OFFICIAL GAZETTE

24 May 1949.

1. An additional appropriation of TL 15,000. has been approved for the "GHA". The 1949 National Budget has been amended accordingly.

COMMUNIST

24 May 1949.

1. A report from New York says that Dean Acheson will visit Athens and Ankara after the end of the Paris conference.
2. It is reported from Samsun that construction of the Ortakoy bridge on the Kizilirmak river has been completed and that bridge has been opened to traffic.

U.S.S.

27 May 1949.

1. Press conference by Col. Mary Hallaren. Prints her picture and that of Col. Kelley on front page.
2. The Justice Committee is preparing a bill increasing penalties for extreme right and leftist activities.
3. The bill relative to the "Establishment and Functions of the Ministry of National Defense" has been placed on the GNA Agenda. If the bill is passed it will go into effect on 1 July 1949.
4. Mr. Samuel, British Embassy Counsellor, is leaving Ankara to-night for Istanbul and London. He has been in Turkey four years, and is now appointed elsewhere.
5. Cemil Parmen, Director General of the State Airways, gave the following information on forthcoming boat schedules:
 "A service will be established linking Istanbul - Izmir - Larnaca (Cyprus) - Beyrouth - Alexandria - Naples - Marseilles - Genoa, once every fifteen days. The DUTAGUL and ADARA will be used on this line.
 "Three of the six passenger vessels obtained from America will be assigned one each to the Mediterranean, the Black Sea, and the Istanbul - Izmir run.
 "The KAREY will establish an express line Istanbul - Trabzon.
 "Express services between Istanbul - Trabzon will make the trip in 49 hours; between Istanbul - Iskenderun in four days; between Izmir - Iskenderun in a little over 2 1/2 days. The run Istanbul - Izmir will be reduced to 18 hours instead of the present 20 1/2 hours."
6. Paper money in circulation as of 21 May: TL 927,957,380.

12. SEPTEMBER 1949

25 May 1949.

1. It is reported from Ankara that two Italian naval vessels will visit the port of Izmir during August. One of the vessels is a training ship. The visit is connected with the establishment of an Italian pavilion at the Izmir International Fair.

U. I. U. S.

28 May 1949.

1. Mr. Dorr had a car accident near Solatli. Mrs. Dorr and little daughter are both in hospital.
2. The death is reported of Mustafa Argon, Director of National Palaces.
3. The water works in Ankara have been transferred to the Municipality.
4. The newly established Second Penal Court in Ankara opened this morning. It is headed by Cemil Nispeten.
5. The Bureau of "Highways & Bridges" in the Ministry of Public Works is going to be raised into a "Directorate General of Roads" with an auxiliary budget and juristic rights. The relative bill has already been passed by the Council of Ministers and will soon be submitted to the GNA.
6. A new Traffic law is under preparation. American traffic regulations have been translated and are being studied for this purpose.
7. It is estimated that 70,000 tons lignite will be extracted from the Agagli mines during 1949. For the time being, transportation to Istanbul is being accomplished by trucks. The lignite obtained from Agagli is of very fine quality.
8. It is reported from Manig that a Technical Mission has studied the possibilities of establishing an electric power plant on Hazer lake and reached a favorable conclusion. The mission will also inspect the site where Agun bridge will be built.
9. It is reported from Istanbul that beginning 1 June 1949, Syrian and Turkish visas will be issued to the citizens of the relative countries without exceptions. By a recent decision the Syrian Government considers the Syrian visa alone to be valid for entrance into Syria.
10. A bill has been filed with the GNA establishing 1 March as the beginning of the Fiscal year. If passed, the law will give the members of Parliament more time to examine the yearly National and Auxiliary budgets.
11. The delegates to the XI th Congress of the Turkish Aviation League yesterday followed an air display at Sincan. Three groups of 5 planes each, all Magisters produced at the League Factory, took part in formation flying. Seven teachers of the League Aviation School, Suha Duman, Behavet Karapara, and Nesime Franyali displayed acrobatic flying each aboard a Magister plane. Following this, three TBF-2 single passenger planes took off. The single passenger Magister which performed acrobatics at low altitude attracted great attention. Then, women teachers of the aviation school jumped by parachute. There was glider flying, and model displays. Two model planes (one operated by an engine) were set free and disappeared in the horizon without returning to their base. Following the display, the delegates visited the Motor Factory where 25 145 HP engines were built in the past six months since the factory went into production. One of these engines has already been installed in a plane which will be tested soon. It will be the first Turkish plane to run on a Turkish engine.



AMERICAN LEGATION

= DAMASCUS =

Daily Review of the Syrian Press

The following is an informal digest of material from the local Arabic Press, and is in no way to be considered as an official translation. It should not be quoted nor attributed to the Legation.

No.104

(FOR STAFF USE ONLY)

PRESS DIGEST, FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 1949

'PAPERS REVIEWED:

Alif Ba', Al Nasr, Al Ayyam, Al Qabas, Al 'Alam,
Al Shabab, Al Nazir, and Al Jabal.

-----oOo-----

ARAB AFFAIRS

DEVELOPMENTS AT LAUSANNE CONFERENCE:

Alif Ba': A Foreign Office source told our reporter that the Lausanne Conference is failing in view of the Jewish negative attitude regarding the problem of the refugees, their insistence on discussing the political aspects of the Palestine question first, and their desire to negotiate with the Arab States individually without restricting themselves to the decisions of the Security Council and the United Nations.

The Arab delegates, added the source, insisted on the settlement of the refugees question, their compensation, and their restoration to their homes, before entering into a discussion of the political aspects of the Palestine question.

Our correspondent further reports that the Syrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued to its delegation at Lausanne further instructions confirming its insistence upon the settlement of the refugees question first.

Al Nasr....

(Pr.Dig.104/2)

Al Nasr: ANA reports that the Palestine Conciliation Commission is exerting pressure on Israel to accept the repatriation of the refugees, at a time other reports indicate that Mr. Sam Cooper, a State Department official who arrived recently at Lausanne, has advised the Arab Governments to recognize Israel and to arrange for the settlement of the refugees in their countries, promising American aid in return.

Ahmad al-Shuqayri, advisor to the Syrian delegation made a press statement in Lausanne expressing pessimism about the results of the Lausanne Conference and warning the commission that unless the Israelis accept the legitimate Arab demands for repatriation of refugees the Arab delegation will withdraw from the Conference.

The Palestine AHC presented a memorandum to the Palestine Conciliation Commission detailing its viewpoint of the problem of the refugees whom it estimates at 1,090,000 according to International Red Cross estimates.

PROGRESS OF SYRO-ISRAELI TRUCE TALKS:

Alif Ba': Dr. Bunche is reported as having stated in Lake Success that certain procedural progress has been noted in the truce talks between Israel and Syria.

General William Riley, Chief of the UN Observers for Palestine, is reported as having emplaned from New York for Damascus on Wednesday, June 1, 1949 following his discussion with Acting UN Mediator for Palestine, Dr. Bunche, on the new proposals for the settlement of dispute between Syria and Israel.

Dr. Bunche who bid farwell to General Riley said that the new proposals presented to both parties concerns the delineation of truce lines and that the political borders cannot be drawn before the conclusion of an armistice between Israel and Syria.

BRITISH GENERAL COLLINS IN DAMASCUS:

Alif Ba': Representing certain UN bodies, British General Collins arrived in Damascus and called on the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Amir 'Adil Arslan. It is believed that his mission is connected with the problem of the refugees.

DEPARTURE....

(Pr.Dig.104/3)

DEPARTURE OF PAKISTAN MINISTER:

Alif Ba': Pakistan Foreign Affairs Minister Zafarallah Khan who was in Damascus on a two-day visit emplaned for Karachi Thursday morning, June 2, 1949.

RELEASE OF WO TABBARA AND HIS FRIENDS:

Alif Ba': WO Tabbara and his fellow-soldiers, released early yesterday morning (June 2) and handed over personally to former Minister Luhsin Barazi, were officially received on the Syro-Lebanese border by the Acting Muhafiz of Damascus and the Secretary of the Prime Ministry, Dr. Anwar Hatim, as well as a unit of Police and Gendarmerie which took the salute. Major Bahij al-Kallas, and Za'im's Private Secretary Nazir Fanssah received Minister Barazi, the Syrian WO, and the soldiers at Hamih, near Damascus.

Immediately after their arrival Barazi and his cortège reported to Colonel Za'im. In a statement to the reporter of Alif Ba' Minister Barazi expressed his satisfaction at the judgement of the Arbitration Commission which received the appreciation of the two countries. "This clearly proved," said Barazi, "that intimate brotherly relations and mutual devotion and understanding still exists between the two countries."

MR. COOPER IN M.E.:

Al Nasr: ANA reports from Cairo that Mr. Samuel Cooper, Special Assistant to the Chief of Near Eastern and African Affairs in the US State Department, who is now in Cairo, will tour the Middle Eastern Capitals starting with Damascus next Monday.

URGING SOLUTION FOR CRISIS:

Al Qabas: Commenting on the decision of the Arbitration Commission regarding the Tabbara Case, Editor Najib al-Rayyis editorialized:

"This Syro-Lebanese crisis is neither the first nor the last, for the partnership between the two countries and the mutual interests of the two peoples usually result in such disputes which always have a happy ending. We now must put an end to further disputes, a goal which can be easily achieved if the two countries understand that their interests are one... So if after a few days we demand that the two Governments hold a meeting to lay new foundations to strengthen their relations with each other and to support the existing partnership, the two Governments must realize that they are meeting under different...

(Pr.Dig.104/4)

different circumstances than those which prevailed during the war and therefore they should negotiate in the light of these new circumstances in both the political and economic fields.

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

ECONOMIC TALKS WITH LEBANON:

Alif Ba': Informed circles in Beirut regard it as inevitable that economic talks between Syria and Lebanon, begun between Syrian National Economy and Finance Minister Hasan Jabbara and his Lebanese colleague Philip Taqla, will be resumed.

Minister Jabbara is quoted as having stated the following:

"It was intended before the occurrence of the latest crisis between the two countries to hold a joint meeting to raise the question of partnership following the stagnation and loss inflicted upon Syrian production and domestic industry as a result of certain Lebanese decisions which harmed the Syrian economy. Partnership with Lebanon should either be maintained on the basis of economic entity or a separation should be effected to enable us to plan our economy independently and establish a new status which will preserve the natural resources of the country, help the development of its economy, and protect its production.

FOREIGN COMPANIES IN SYRIA:

Al Nasr: A 27-article Legislative Decree has been issued regulating the operation in Syria of branches and agencies of foreign companies. According to this decree, all such branches and agencies are not to start functioning prior to registration at the Ministry of National Economy at which time they will be required to name the main office of the company, its nationality, capital and its center in Syria.

DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

ZA'IM'S PRIVATE SECRETARY FLYING TO PARIS:

Al Nasr: Za'im's Private Secretary, Nazir Fanssah, will leave next week for Paris to deliver a message addressed by Col. Za'im to President Auriol of France. He will be accompanied by the Syrian military delegation to France. Fanssah may also be delegated on an official mission to London.

DIRECTOR....

(Pr.Dig.104/5)

DAMASCUS ATTRACTS YOUNG AMERICANS:

Al Nasr: "The outstanding characteristic of Damascus, the most ancient city in the world, is that it has started attracting to it people from overseas," this paper reports and adds: "The Americans, who are fanciers of the exotic and strange and wishing to satisfy to a certain extent their love for adventure have had the idea of marrying in the most ancient city in the world, which is uncompetetively.... Damascus.

"This 'immortal Capital' has in the past few days welcomed large groups of young Americans, men and women, who have adopted the above idea and come to Damascus to immortalize their union in holy matrimony.

"Damascus has welcomed them, blessed their marriage, and afforded them all possible means to enjoy their sojourn. The Government has also instructed its diplomatic representatives abroad to encourage such couples to visit the immortal Capital."

AIR TRAFFIC WITH TURKEY:

Al 'Alam: The Syrian Government has entered in negotiations with the Turkish Government designed to conclude an air agreement between the two countries. Talks are expected to terminate at the end of the week, when the agreement will be signed.

-----oOo-----

JSS/ES/jss

DALLASCUS RADIO COMMENTARY

Evening Commentary, June 2, 1949

Al Ahram, the Egyptian daily, has published a report recently received by the Secretary General of the Arab League from the head of the Egyptian delegation to the Lausanne Conference.

The report is very pessimistic as regards the prospects of the Conference. It stresses its inability to find a solution for any question relating to the thorny problem of Palestine. Although five weeks have already elapsed, the Conference has not yet made any positive achievement, on which it can base future discussions,

The head of the Egyptian delegation attributes the present stalemate to the evasive attitude of the Jews. The Jewish delegation seems to follow this policy of subterfuge with a view to widening the scope of their gains. At first it proposed that the mandatory political frontiers of Palestine be considered as the frontier lines between the Jewish state and the Arab states. The Conciliation Commission refused to consider this proposal. Later the Jews proposed the annexation of the Gaza district to the territories under their control. In return, they said they will be willing to allow three hundred and fifty thousand Arab refugees to establish themselves in their territory.

However, the Conciliation Commission could not find any justification for the consideration of this proposal which is more imaginary than practical.

The evasive attitude on the part of the Jews has recently been explained in a report sent by the Conciliation Commission to Mr. Trygve-Lie, the United Nations Secretary General. The Jewish delegation, says the Commission, refrains from answering questions on the United Nations resolution which provides for the repatriation of the Arab refugees. The Jews, continues the Commission, maintain that the real solution of the Arab refugee problem is the settlement of most of the Arab refugees in the Arab states.

The head of the Egyptian delegation points out that the mission of the Conciliation Commission is really confined to the implementation of the United Nations resolution

which provides

which provides for the repatriation of the Arab refugees. The Commission, however, instead of devoting itself to the main object of its mission, is giving the Jews the right of submitting proposals, which may lead to the acceptance of only a limited number of the Arab refugees.

The head of the Egyptian delegation concludes his report by saying that the settlement of the Palestine problem in all its aspects is really dependent on the attitude of Britain and the United ~~AMERICAN~~ States.

es



AMERICAN LEGATION

= DAMASCUS =

Daily Review of the Syrian Press

The following is an informal digest of material from the local Arabic Press, and is in no way to be considered as an official translation. It should not be quoted nor attributed to the Legation.

No. 105

(FOR STAFF USE ONLY)

PRESS DIGEST, MONDAY, JUNE 6, 1949.

..*

NEWSPAPERS REVIEWED:

Alif Ba', Al Nasr, Al Inqilab, Al Ayyam, Al Wabas,
Al 'Alam, Al Shabab, Al Nazir and al Jabal.

-----oOo-----

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

NEW TAX ON SALARIES AND WAGES:

Al Inqilab: Following is full text of Legislative decree No. 104 imposing tax on salaries and wages:

Article 1: A temporary and extraordinary tax on salaries and, in general, on net income as defined in articles 42, 45, and 46 of legislative decree No. 85 of May 21, 1949, is imposed for the benefit of National Defense.

Article 2: The rate of this extraordinary tax is fixed as follows, and will be collected for 18 months effective July 1, 1949:

2% monthly on net income not exceeding LS. 100
5% " " " " ranging between LS.100 and
LS. 1,000 and on all lump sum payments,
10% monthly on net income exceeding LS.1,000.

Article 3....

(Pr.Dig.105/2)

Article 3: Drafters are exempt from this tax as well as all income mentioned in Article 43 of Legislative Decree No.85 of May 21, 1949, within the conditions mentioned therein.

Article 4: Both the employer and the employee shall be subject to the conditions of income tax collection on salaries and wages in enforcing the extraordinary tax levy including its computation, collection, complaints, and penalties.

Article 5: The extraordinary tax is not subject to any percentage increase.

A SA'UDI LOAN TO SYRIA:

Al Ayyam: A loan of 6 million dollars is reported to have been made to Syria by Sa'udi Arabian Government to be refunded in ten year installments.

RESUMPTION OF ECONOMIC TALKS:

Alif Ba': In a note addressed to the Lebanese authorities the Syrian Government suggested the resumption of economic talks between the two countries. . .

Syria has fixed June 25, 1949 as the last day for the Lebanese reply to its proposals. (See Pr. Dig. 101/8)

SYRIAN REPRESENTATION IN LABOR CONFERENCE:

Alif Ba': The Syrian delegation to the International Labor Conference in Geneva will consist of Ihsan Jukhadar, Director of the Labor Affairs, representing the Government; Adnan al-Quwwatli representing the Laborers; and Dr. Ahmad al-Samman representing the employers.

THE NEW SYRIAN CROP:

Alif Ba': The Agricultural production this year is estimated as surpassing all other harvests. Harvesting is reported as having already started in certain areas.

On the other hand Al Nasr reports that an agreement in principle has been reached between Syria and Egypt for the latter to purchase 100,000 tons of wheat as the world price and for Egyptian currency.

COMMERCIAL

(Pt. Dig. 105/2)

COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH COSTA RICA:

Al Nasr: The Commercial Delegate of Costa Rica has arrived in Damascus from Beirut and called on the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss with him the establishment of economic relations and the conclusion of an agreement between the two countries

SYRIAN POUND CIRCULATION:

Al Nasr: Latest statistics give the figure of Syrian Pounds circulation as of May 31 as 241 million and Lebanese as 172 million, making a total of 413 million Syrian and Lebanese Pounds.

ARAB AFFAIRS

EXCHANGE OF CABLES:

Al Inqilab: This paper features the cables exchanged between Colonel Za'im and King Ibn Sa'ud of Arabia on the occasion of the settlement of dispute which arose between Syria and Lebanon. In his cable to Husni Za'im, the Arabian Monarch expressed his pleasure that an agreement has been reached, and congratulated Za'im on farsightedness and wisdom which contributed materially to the solution of the problem.

In reply, the Syrian C-in-C and Prime Minister thanked the King and pointed out that the agreement with Lebanon was reached according to the King's pleasure. Za'im also mentioned the great role played by His Majesty in interceding to bring together the different viewpoints.

ARAB COMMUNISTS IN HAIFA:

Al Inqilab: From reliable sources comes the report that the Arab Communists have taken Haifa as their headquarters, and that a great number of Syrian and Lebanese Communists have appeared in Haifa on the occasion of the Communist Congress there last Thursday. The same source confirmed that a special bureau of the Communist Party in Beirut has been issuing visas to the Jewish Zones of Palestine, and that these visas are considered legal by the Jewish authorities.

FORMIN

(Pr..Dig. 105/4)

FORMIN SPEAKS ON OUTSTANDING ISSUES:

Al Inqilab: Following the Afghanistan Minister's visit to the Foreign Minister in which the question of North Africa and Tripolitania were discussed, the Foreign Minister cabled all Arab Governments asking for the convocation of the AL Political Committee for the consideration of this question along with that of Palestine. At a press statement, Minister Arslan stated that Syria will not recognize Sanusi's Government before exchanging views with the other Arab countries.

Asked about the proposals carried to Damascus by General Riley for the resumption of Syro-Israeli armistice talks, the Foreign Minister stated he had no idea about them yet.

RESTRICTION ON IMPORTS FROM LEBANON:

Al Inqilab: The Syrian Government has notified the Lebanese Government that it has prepared a new project regulating Syrian foreign trade especially in yarn and textiles and that the new foundations for economic partnership will be built in the light of the project. Import of Lebanese cotton yarn has accordingly been suspended.

WE SHALL NOT CHANGE OUR ATTITUDE:

Al 'Alam: This is the title of an editorial printed in yesterday's issue of Al 'Alam on the occasion of General Riley's return to the Near East carrying new proposals for the resumption of Syro-Israeli armistice talks. The editorial runs on the following lines:

On this occasion, we would like to emphasize that Syria is determined to adhere to the policy it has adopted, a policy of no withdrawal from any point presently occupied by its army. The Syrian Government firmly believes that it is adopting the right policy, and had the other Arab Governments followed the same policy, they would have crushed our common enemy.... Therefore, all these new maneuvers to which the Chief Observer is resorting will not be of any use.

A PAKISTAN LEGATION IN DAMASCUS:

Al Ayyam: The Pakistan Minister Plenipotentiary to

Baghdad is

(Pr. Dig. 105/5)

to Baghdad is reported to have arrived in Damascus seeking a suitable building for the establishment of a Pakistan Legation in Damascus

KING FARUQ'S GIFTS TO SYRIAN ARMY:

Al Nasr: King Faruq's 8-ton gifts to Syrian Army personnel stationed along the frontiers are scheduled to reach Damascus Monday, June 6, 1949 in four Dakota planes. King Faruq's ADC, Major Shafiq Mahanna, is accompanying the planes and will take the charge of presenting these gifts.

A SYRIAN PROPOSAL:

Al Nasr: A Foreign Office spokesman stated to our reporter that the Syrian Delegation to UN has requested the internationalization of Jerusalem, Nazareth, and other sacred sites in Palestine. This request was favorably considered with the exception of the question of Nazareth which remains as an obstacle in the way of discussions.

The spokesman further added that the statements uttered by the responsible British sources, the Orthodox Churches, the Vatican, and the Chief of New York ecclesiastics support the Syrian proposal.

DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

ZA'IM'S PRESENT TO FRENCH PRESIDENT:

Al Ayyam: Prime Minister Col. Za'im's gift to President Auriol of France consists of a complete furniture of a room from the valuable Damascus-made mosaic works as well as a movable mosaic table and an antique piece of carpet reports our correspondent. Another present is reported to have been prepared for the French Minister of War.

Nazir Fannssah, Prime Minister's special secretary, is scheduled for to fly to Paris Monday, June 6, 1949, to deliver these presents.

ELECTION

(Pr.Dig.105/6)

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

Al Nasr: The following Legislative Decree No.106 has been promulgated:

"The Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Armed Forces and Prime Minister,

"Whereas the vacancy of the President of the Republic resulting from the resignation submitted by the former President to the people on April 6, 1949, necessitates the return to the people who are the source of all powers, and

"According to the Council of Ministers' decision,

DECREES THE FOLLOWING:

Article 1: A referendum will be held and the people will be called upon to vote, by secret ballot, on the following issues:

(a) The President of the Republic shall for the first time be elected directly by the people by a secret ballot. Candidates must be Syrians, enjoying all civil rights, and at least 40 years of age at the time of their candidacy. The returns will be announced by the Council of Ministers.

The period of office of the President shall be fixed in the Constitution.

(b) The President of the Republic shall be authorized by a legislative decree issued by the Council of Ministers to prepare a new constitution which will be ratified by the people either through a popular referendum or by Parliament within a period of four months subsequent to the date of his election.

(c) Pending the preparation of the constitution and its ratification, the President of the Republic shall be authorized to issue legislative decrees, including those of constitutional character, which are approved by the Council of Ministers.

(d) The powers vested in the President shall include all legislative decrees issued since March 30, 1949

Article 2: The referendum, the invitation of voters to vote by secret ballot, and the method of electing the President of the Republic will be specified in a subsequent decree.

Article 3: This decree is promulgated and transmitted to those concerned for execution.

Al Inqilab....

(Pr. Dig. 105/7)

Al Inqilab: A semi-official source stated following the issuance of the aforementioned legislative decree that the date of presidential elections has been fixed on Saturday, June 25, 1949

ANY CABINET RESHUFFLE:

Al Nasr: Political circles in Cairo expect a reshuffle in the Syrian Cabinet at any moment and the ANA reports that before his departure from Cairo to settle the Lebano-Syrian crisis, Muhsin Bey Barazi was entrusted with the formation of a new Cabinet or to take the charge of Foreign Affairs. ANA further added that Muhsin Bey had declined the offer and requested a delay to consider the matter implying his preference for remaining Minister Plenipotentiary to Egypt.

SUPPORT OF TABBARA:

Al Nasr: In a two-column article this paper first reports the reference of WO Tabbara and his soldiers to Court and then recommends to Col. Za'im that "no matter what the motives and the reasons for referring these soldiers to Court are, they should not be tried".

FRENCH MINISTER AT FOREIGN OFFICE:

Al Nasr: French Minister Plenipotentiary to Syria visited Minister of Foreign Affairs for half an hour yesterday, Sunday, June 5, 1949.

ZA'IM'S VISIT TO THE FRONT:

Al Inqilab: The following Communiqué was issued by the DGPPB:

"This morning, H.E. the Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Colonel Commanding the Syrian Army and the Armed Forces visited the front lines together with a number of Lebanese newspapermen including Muhyi-al-Din al Nasuli, owner of Beirut daily; 'Abdallah Mashnuq, owner of Beirut Soir daily; Zuhayr 'Usayran, owner of al-Hadaf; Sa'id Frayha, owner of Al Sayyad weekly magazine : Damassene newsmen and the Director General of the Publication, Propaganda and Broadcasting also accompanied him. They returned in the evening".

Damascus, June 2, 1949.

USIS

(Pr. Dig. 105/8)

USIS PICTURE EXHIBIT:

Al Inqilab: The Picture Exhibit prepared by the U.S.I.S. on Thursday evening, June 2, 1949 was attractive and interesting. It was attended by a large number of people and dignitaries.

PROMOTIONS:

Alif Ba': Lt. Colonel 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Hakim, the Director General of Mobilization, has been promoted to the rank of Colonel.

Major Sa'id Habbi, the Director of the Military Academy, in Homs, has been promoted to the rank of Lt. Colonel.

RESURRECTIONISTS ARRESTED:

Al Inqilab: This paper reports, in introducing its editorial which commends the dissolution of political parties, the following statement:

Some sources have reported that two days ago the Government arrested and imprisoned tens of persons affiliated with the Resurrection party. The truth is that only five members of the party have been arrested under the charge of conducting partisan activities after the issuance of the decree abolishing all political parties and associations.

ARMY DAY:

Al Inqilab: June 15 has been proclaimed Army day, during which every Syrian will be expected to save his pocket money for the benefit of the Army. "Every Syrian is called upon to effect this contribution, thereby performing a holy duty toward his country and army which is stationed in the field of honor in the Holy Land."

COUNCIL OF JUSTICE:

Al Inqilab: This paper publishes today the full text of Legislative decree No. 105 establishing a "Council of Justice". Article 1 vests in the Council the powers to look into the crimes mentioned in the Protection of Independence Law, in Parts I, 2, 3, 4, of Chapter I of the penal Code, crimes of murder, and those crimes mentioned in the Military penal code which are considered by the Council of Ministers as contrary to the interests of the country and the Government.

(Pr. Dig. 105/9)

NO VACATION FOR JUDGES:

Al Inqilab: The Government of the new regime has abolished the summer vacation formerly granted to all judges.

EX-DEPUTY SMUGGLING OPIUM:

Al Inqilab: Ex-deputy 'Uqlah al-Wutami's car was caught at Chabaghbin Huran carrying six-and-half tins of opium. The ex-deputy himself and his driver were in the car, and the opium was hid in the special section of the car's baggage compartment. Wutami and his driver are both under arrest.

CENSUS OF LAWYERS:

Al Inqilab: The Damascus Lawyers' Syndicate has transmitted to the Prime Ministry the following statistics on lawyers registered in the Syndicate.

Damascus :	233	Lawyers	and	50	apprentices.
Homs :	13	"	"	3	"
Hama :	14	"	"	8	"
Euphrates:	7	"	"	3	"
Jazira :	14	"	"	3	"
Jabal Druze:	1				
Huran :	4				

not

Retired lawyers/included in the above figures number 24.

-----oOo-----

MOVIES THIS WEEKDUNIA JULIUS EZE

German Talking Film presumably produced on orders from HITLER on Jews.

AHRAM BOOM TCM

Clark Gable, Spencer Tracy, and Heddy Lamarr.

F.GH/JSS/ES/aet.

DAMASCUS RADIO COMMENTARY

Moan, Friday, June 3, 1949:

THE ARAB AWAKENING

The last century witnessed a growing interest on the part of the Western Powers in the Arab countries and the Arab people. Hitherto, the Eastern shores of the Mediterranean, as well as the adjoining countries, aroused neither the attention nor the interest of the world at large. Various factors, however, have, in the last century, altered the attitude of Europe, not least among them being political and economic. Simultaneously, a group of men, who had devoted their lives to Arabic studies, brought to light a great Arab heritage and past, which had been lost to the world in the dark period of Ottoman domination. These orientalist, as they are called, made a discovery similar in one sense to that of the humanists of the Renaissance when they revived the glories of classical Greece and Rome. As a result, numberless books have lately been written on the Arabs and the Arab World by Western scholars, travellers and statesmen.

Of far greater importance, however, was the birth of a new national conscience among the Arabs themselves. For the last five centuries the Arabs had remained the acquiescent subjects of an unenlightened, oppressive and degrading rule. That long period was one of complete mental and spiritual stagnation. No movement was made, on the part of the subject population, to ruffle the smooth surface of that deadlike complacency; no effort to shake themselves free from the bonds of a vicious regime that would not or could not allow them to assert and exercise their rights as members of a living political and social organism. Peace, indeed, there was in the Ottoman Empire for quite a long time but it was the kind of peace which cramps human achievement and progress. Such was the state of things within the boundaries of the Ottoman Empire; such was it in the Arab speaking world.

At the beginning of the nineteenth century, however, the Arabs awoke to the fact that that regime was both odious and unnatural, as, indeed it was. They awoke to the fact that they, too, had a right to live as free men, and to assert their own individual character. In freedom alone, they believed, could they revive and enrich that heritage and those traditions to which they are the particular heirs. In freedom, and in freedom alone could they realize both their cultural and political aspirations, as well as become active contributors to human progress and achievement.

As has been said, a great number of books has, of late, been written on the Arabs and the Arab world. On political questions, too, the destinies of the Arabic-speaking people have brought forth a number of written material. But no single study of the political movements in the Arab World in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries has been so comprehensive or so thorough as the 'Arab Awakening' by Georges Antonius. The writer starts his story from the very beginning of Arab resistance to

Turkish...

Turkish rule. "The Story of the Arab national movement," he tells us, "opens in Syria in 1847, with the foundation in Beirut of a modest literary society. In the course of the two following decades various other societies sprang up! These were all unanimous in denouncing the obnoxious evils and tyranny of the Turkish regime. All, more or less, aspired to freedom from the Turkish yoke. Those first years witnessed the dawn of Arab national consciousness. New spheres of thought were beginning to filter through the various parts of the Arab countries, whose populations were mostly unlettered and far behind the times as well as hitherto completely unaware of the great stride made by the West in the industrial, social, and cultural fields. That was one of the reasons why the progress of the movement was comparatively slow. The other was the over vigilant spie-system of Abd-al-Hamid.

When the young Turkish movement appeared on the scene to check the tyranny and misrule of Abd-al-Hamid, the Arabs were, on the whole, inclined to fraternize and cooperate with the Turks in the hope of gaining their independence, or, at least, that they might enjoy an autonomous and constitutional government. But the political aspirations of the Arabs and Turks were completely irreconcilable. By turkifying the foreign elements among their subject population, the young Turks believed that they could secure a firm hold on the tottering remains of what once had been the greatest and most formidable empire in the world. Their plans, however, were not destined to materialize, for various factors were at work against them. Not least being the national awakening of the Arab people, who despairing of gaining their ends by peaceful means and in cooperation with the Turks, sided with the Allies in the first world war and broke out in open revolt.

At the beginning of the first World War the crux of the situation was, to quote the author of the Arab Awakening, as follows: "If Turkey were actually to be drawn into the war, might not the absorption in it give the Arabs their long-awaited opportunity? Two courses remained opened to them: to stand by Turkey in her hour of trial and earn her grateful recognition, or to rise against her and seek freedom at the point of the sword."

The Arabs chose the second alternative, and pledges having been given by the British Government to King Husayn, the leader of the Arab Revolt, to recognize the complete and sovereign independence of the Arab countries then under Turkish rule, the Arabs entered the Allied cause whole-heartedly.

That ends the first phase of the story. The second, more recent and in consequence, more familiar, is in fact a mere repetition of the first phase. Instead of freeing the Arab countries, as had been promised, the English and the French occupied the greatest part of the liberated regions, notwithstanding pledges given and services rendered. What the Arabs suffered at the hands of the Turks, has been immeasurably less than what they suffered at the hands of the English and French. That had been the first encounter of the Arabs with the Western Powers. They bitterly learnt that, however great were the evils of the backward and tyrannic Turkish regime, they were far surpassed by the tortuous perfidy, greed and callousness of European diplomacy.

That....

That, in short, is the period covered by the "Arab Awakening." The author has dealt with the subject comprehensively and in a masterly way. The book, written in English, makes interesting reading. Not least among its merits is the fact that the author had personally and intimately known a great number of the men who figure on the scene. Moreover, the writer, himself an Arab, has felt and shared the joys and sorrows, the hopes and disappointments of those very people whose history he relates.

Evening Commentary, June 3

Britain has recently declared that she supports an autonomous government in Cyrenaica under the leadership of Sayyed Idris Sennusi. Arab reaction to this declaration has been very unfavourable. Azzam Pasha, Secretary-General of the Arab League, has remarked in Cairo that this declaration does not grant the people of Cyrenaica anything positive. All that Britain has promised is that she will appreciate the people's wish to have an autonomous government within the limits of her international obligations. Azzam Pasha expressed his doubt as to the nature of this autonomous government. He wondered whether this declaration did not prejudice the unity of Libya, and whether Britain was not actually working for the realization of the Bevin-Sforza agreement. He believes that this declaration is no more than a step toward the establishment of Italy in Tripolitania and France in Fezzan. The only new development in the Libyan problem is that Britain intends to keep her hold on Cyrenaica. That is why she has not bound herself by any promise incompatible with the Bevin-Sforza agreement.

It is indeed regrettable, said Azzam Pasha, that Britain is only concerned with her own interests. She has not tried to reach an understanding with the Arabs on this question. Azzam Pasha concluded by expressing his beliefs that the Arabs will continue to ask for the independence and unity of Libya and will oppose any attempt at the reestablishment of imperialism in this area.

Mr. Bashir al-Qa'dawi, President of the Committee for the Liberation of Libya, has remarked that the declaration has caused a shock similar to that experienced when the Italians landed in Libya in 1911. Ever since that date, continued Mr. Qa'dawi, we have been facing a series of imperialistic conspiracies aiming at the dissolution and partitioning of the Arab countries. The recent conspiracy is indeed one of the

grossest....

grossest ever known in history. Mr. Sa'dawi concluded by stressing that the Libyans will resist to the last man every attempt at the partitioning of Libya.

A spokesman of the Egyptian Government has declared that Egypt will continue to insist that Libya should retain her unity so as to enable herself to obtain her independence in the shortest possible time.

Noon Commentary, June 4

If the Lausanne Conference of 1923 which established a lasting peace between the Allies and Turkey is well known in contemporary history, the recent conference held in the same Helvetic city has very little chance of keeping in mind any souvenirs at all. In fact, nothing important has been achieved in this conference. Several weak communiques have been issued from time to time to remind the world that representatives of several Near East nations have gone on a long trip through little Switzerland in an attempt to solve the thorny problem of Palestine to which all the United Nations experts have so far found no settlement. This severe judgment by public opinion has met its confirmation even among members of the Lausanne Conference itself.

The head of the Egyptian delegation to this conference has sent the following report to Azzam Pasha, Sec-Gen of the Arab League: "In five weeks the Lausanne Conference has not been able to take the least efficacious step toward solving the Palestinian problem. This illustrates exactly the tortuous methods of the Zionist delegates, who no more seem to abide by the United Nations decision concerning the repatriation of the refugees and the internationalization of the Holy City. Presenting absurd new propositions always, the Jews have now suggested that the Arabs accept that all the coastal region situated between Gaza and Egypt be allocated to Israel, who will then accept the repatriation of a limited number of refugees."

In view of this new project submitted by the Zionist delegation, the Conciliation Commission in a report presented to the United Nations has confirmed that this is the only possible solution of the refugee problem according to Tel Aviv authorities.

The Arabs are unanimously adhering to their decision taken before the Lausanne conference was convened, and which demands that the refugee problem be settled before anything else is discussed as regards the Palestine problem as a whole.

Evening

- 5 -

Evening Commentary, June 4

The prospects of the Lausanne Conference are still very weak. The Lausanne correspondent of Al Ahrar, the Egyptian daily, has reported that the Arab refugee problem is the chief cause of the present stalemate. Although the talks have now entered their sixth week, the two parties concerned have not yet agreed on any point and the Conciliation Commission is unable to effect any conciliation. A spokesman of the commission has declared that the talks are not likely to make any progress until the return of the head of the Jewish delegation who is now in Tel Aviv consulting his Government on the present deadlock. Despite the long discussions and several meetings, the Egyptian, Syrian, Lebanese, and Jordanian delegations are still insisting on the repatriation of all the Arab refugees to their original homes from which they were ousted after the commencement of hostilities. The Jewish delegation, however, still insists that the Arab refugee problem is only a part of the general settlement. A member of the Jewish delegation has even declared that he does not expect the head of his delegation to return from Tel Aviv with new proposals.

The Syrian delegation to the conference has sent a report to Damascus saying that the Lausanne conference is in the process of expiring. The talks are not expected to make any progress even after the return of the head of the Jewish delegation. Two days ago the heads of the Arab delegations met the Conciliation Commission and asked that the Jews should discontinue the measures by which they have been occupying Arab houses and lands and confiscating Arab property. They pointed out to the Commission that these measures are bound to increase the complications of the Arab refugee problem. The Arab delegations have foiled another Jewish attempt aiming at separate negotiations with each of the Arab delegations. The Arab delegations are still determined to conduct their negotiations through the Conciliation Commission.

The Commission has decided to refer the Arab demands to the Branch Committee which has been asked to specify the areas to which the Arab refugees must first be repatriated. Accordingly the Arab delegations met the Branch Committee yesterday and submitted all the statistics required.

The Correspondent of Al Ahrar concluded his report by

saying.....

saying that he has learned from an informed source relating to the Commission that Dr. Bunche will probably take the place of Mr. Mark Etnaridge, the former American member of the Commission as from the fifteenth of June.

Noon Commentary, June 5

An important event in the history of Libya, the former Italian Colony, occurred two days ago. Emir Senoussi proclaimed the independence of Cyrenaica and the new state was recognized by the British Government. This clearly constitutes a real success for the Arab world. All the Arab delegates to the United Nations have struggled fiercely during the last session of the UNO at Lake Success so that Tripolitania and Cyrenaica never again fall under Italian domination. However, if the circumstances in which the liberation of Cyrenaica was effected are examined, it will be wondered whether this great event will not present more disadvantages than advantages as regards the future of Libya. Since Emir Senoussi is openly backed by England, it is difficult to see how in these circumstances Cyrenaica will be able to become a truly independent state totally free from British influence. Otherwise, it would be the first time in the history of the Arab World that the United Kingdom openly proclaims such a generous attitude without previously securing for herself substantial advantages either strategic, political or commercial.

The future of Tripolitania should however be considered from another point of view. The Libyan leaders backed by all the Arab authorities have persistently struggled to obtain the recognition by the big powers of the principle of the unity of Libya. The creation of an independent state in Cyrenaica violates this principle. It may be feared not only that Tripolitania be artificially separated from her Arab sister-state Cyrenaica, but also that, Tripolitania itself be one day submitted to Italian domination by the Allies as a compensation for the loss of Cyrenaica.

From all points of view, the Arab world has not changed its position. As has been declared by Azzam Pasha, Sec-Gen of the Arab League, the Arab World will continue its struggle for the independence and Unity of Libya.

Evening.....

Evening Commentary, June 2

Al Misri, the Egyptian daily, has published that the French Government is expected to establish an autonomous government in Fezzan, ostensibly national but really dependent on France. This government, says Al Misri, will be headed by Prince Ahmad Sayf al Nasr, whom the French call dai Fezzan. Britain has already declared that she will support an autonomous government in Cyrenaica under the leadership of Prince Senussi. The Italian Government has also declared that it will support an ostensibly national government in Tripolitania.

The Devin-Sforza agreement, continues Al Misri, will thus be implemented, even though it has been rejected by the United Nations General Assembly. Britain is trying to face the United Nations, the Libyan people, and the member-states of the Arab League with a fait accompli. Recent events have proved that a fait accompli policy is the best device with which a nation can execute its designs.

The Egyptian government as well as other Arab governments have received this news of British devices with the greatest dissatisfaction. The Arabs cannot recognize the new status of Cyrenaica, for their recognition will mean their acceptance of the partitioning of Libya into three separate states under the trusteeship of three different powers.

Azzam Pasha, Sec-gen of the Arab League, has told the correspondent of Al Misri that the new status of Libya will be more prejudicial to the welfare of the Libyans than the present status. So far, the Western powers have been ruling Libya directly. The establishment of governments, nominally national, but really dependent will enable the imperialistic powers to retain their control of the country and to foment differences between the sections of the population. The Libyan people, added Azzam Pasha, who have reached a satisfactory stage of national consciousness, will not acquiesce to these imperialistic designs against their unity and independence. They will continue their resistance supported by the Arab League until they realise their national aspirations. When asked whether the Arab League Council will shortly hold a meeting to discuss the new developments of the Libyan question, Azzam Pasha said that no date has yet been fixed for the meeting of either the AL Council or the Political Committee.

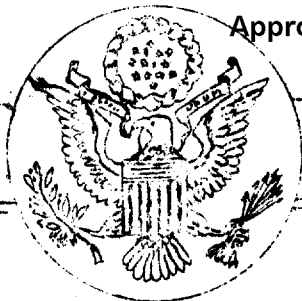
Various.....

- 8 -

Various contacts and consultations, however, are being carried on and once a definite plan is agreed upon, one of the member-states will ask for the reunion of the Arab League Council.

From Tripoli it is reported that the Tripolitanian Congress has declared that the recent developments in Cyrenaica will not alter its attitude as regards the independence and unity of Libya. It called on the people to be in a state of preparedness against all imperialistic intrigues aiming at the partitioning of the country. Arab circles in New York have expressed their support of the declarations recently made by Azzam Pasha, Sec-Gen of the Arab League, and Mr. Nashir Sa'dawi, the President of the Committee for the liberation of Libya. They have described the declaration recently made by Britain as an aggressive attempt to realise Franco-British interests.

es



AMERICAN LEGATION

= DAMASCUS =

Daily Review of the Syrian Press

The following is an informal digest of material from the local Arabic Press, and is in no way to be considered as an official translation. It should not be quoted nor attributed to the Legation.

No. 106

(FOR STAFF USE ONLY)

PRESS DIGEST, TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 1949.

*_*_*

NEWSPAPERS REVIEWED:

Alif Ba', Al Nasr, Al Inqilab, Al Ayyam, Al Qabas,
Al 'Alam, Al Shabab, Al Nazir and al Jabal.

-----oOo-----

DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

DETAILS OF REFERENDUM:

Al Nasr: The following official communique was released yesterday evening by the General Directorate of Propaganda, Publication, and Broadcasting:

"At 6 p.m., Monday, June 6, 1949, the Council of Ministers held a meeting at Government House under the Chairmanship of His Excellency, the Commander-in-Chief and Prime Minister, ratified the draft legislative decree organizing the referendum and the elections preparatory to the restoration of constitutional life in the country, discussed various administrative formalities referred to it, and adjourned at 9 p.m."

Al Nasr

(Pr. Dig.)

Al Nasr scooped all other morning papers in publishing the following details about the referendum, its date, and general organization, as collected by its local correspondent:

The Legislative Decree consists of 60 articles, mostly dealing with the organization of the elections, the appointment of committees, the centers of election, and the counting of votes. But the main points in the decree are:

1. drafting the election papers.
2. proclaiming the date for the referendum.
3. appointing period of candidature.
4. organizing the elections and the proportion of voters.

Referendum papers: The decree fixed the text of the referendum papers on which five question will be printed to be answered by the voters. Following are the five questions:

1. Do you agree to the direct election of the President of the Republic by the people, provided the period of office of the Presidency is fixed by the Constitution?
2. If yes, whom do you elect as President?
3. Do you agree to vesting in the President the power to prepare a new constitution by a legislative decree?
4. Do you desire that the new Constitution be ratified directly by the people?
5. Or do you prefer to have it ratified by a Parliament?

Date of Voting: The decree appoints June 25 as the date for voting on the referendum.

Period of Candidature: The decree fixes the period of presidential candidature as five days starting June 15 in the morning and ending midnight June 19. Every Syrian enjoying all civil rights and who is at least forty years of age has the right to be a presidential candidate.

Voting: The decree provides that should the proportion of voters be less than 60% on the first day of the elections, run-off elections will be held the next day, June 26, until

4 p.m.

(Pr. Dig. 106/3)

4 p.m. when voting stops regardless of the proportion of voters.

A DECREE AND A DECISION:

Al Nasr: A decision has been taken to reinstate Nazhat al-Mamluk as Director of the Mira Office in order to attend meetings of the liquidating committee.

A decree has been issued establishing an office for combatting pernicious foreign propaganda in conjunction with the General Directorate of Propaganda, Publication and Broadcasting. This office, named the Army Information Service, will be attached to the 2nd Bureau of the Ministry of Defense.

ANGLO-IRANIAN READY FOR SIGNATURE:

Al Nasr: Directors of the Anglo-Iranian Petroleum Company have arrived in Damascus and conferred for few hours with the Minister of Finance. Our reporter learns that during the meeting the final text of the agreement had been drafted and that the agreement is now ready for signature.

ENTRY OF FOREIGNERS TO SYRIA:

Al Inqilab: The following circular instruction has been issued to the Security outposts regarding travel of foreigners:

In order to regulate the entrance of foreigners into the Syrian territory and by way of ensuring public interest, from the financial and security points of view, the security outposts are ordered to comply with the following instructions:

1. No foreigners is allowed into the country if not holding Syrian visa.

Passengers arriving by air not holding Syrian visas may be given visas by the Security outposts. As to arrivals from Transjordan, they may be given visas by the Security outposts if there are no objections against their admission.

2. Circulation between Syria and Lebanon remains as before and the two countries continue to exchange lists of names of undesirable foreigners which will be

communicated

(Pr. - - - - -)

communicated to legations abroad and to security outposts.

CUSTOMS DUTIES IMPOSED ON AUTOMATIC TELEPHONES APPARATUS:

Al Ayyam: Our reporter informs that talks are conducted between Syrian and Lebanese authorities regarding the latter's requirement of customs duties on the automatic telephone apparatus and equipment imported by the Syrian Government, despite the existence of agreement between the two countries regarding the exemption of all army surplus equipment and Governmental supplies from customs duties.

A responsible source in the Ministry of finance states that should Lebanon reject the Syrian demand for exempt these equipment from customs duties the imposition of customs duties on all the imports of the two Governments would be urged.

AN ISRAELITE CLUB IN DAMASCUS:

Al Ayyam: Some time ago the authorities had ordered the closing of the Israelite Club in the Jewish quarter when it was discovered that it was conducting activities contrary to the purposes of its establishment. It is reported today that the responsible administrators of the Club have applied for a permission to reopen this Club.

The responsible Syrian authorities are requested to consider this application carefully in order to confirm the good intentions of the administrators and then permit the Club's reopening, the paper cautions.

WORLD AFFAIRS.

SAM KOPPER IS HERE:

Al Nasr: Special Assistant to Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and African Affairs Mr. Samuil Kopper arrived yesterday in Damascus. Although his mission is still unknown Mr. Kopper will contact Syrian authorities during his two days' stay in the Capital. It is generally believed, however, that Mr. Kopper's visit is concerned with final settlement of the Palestine question, the refugee problem, and the internationalization of the Holy places.

KERMIT

KERMIT ROOSEVELT STRESSES THE IMPORTANCE:

Al Nagr: Kermit Roosevelt has published a book entitled: "The Arabs, Petroleum, and History" in which he stresses the importance of the Middle East for preservation of world peace. The writer also attempted to bring to the attention of the Americans that the petroleum of Iran, Iraq, and Sa'udi Arabia has increased in importance and that the Near East has turned into a battlefield between democracy and communism. Roosevelt concluded by stressing the fact that a happy world should not only contain Americans and Russians but also Moslems, Indians, and Buddhists.

HEADLINE NEWS:

Al Inqilab: THE UNITED STATES OPPOSES THE IDEA OF ANNEXING GAZA TO THE JEWS.

JEWS HOLD TO POLICY OF NEGOTIATING INDIVIDUALLY WITH ARABS.

PAKISTAN-AFGHANISTAN DISPUTE:

Al Inqilab: The Afghanistan Minister Plenipotentiary to Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Transjordan, Ghulam Yahya Khan ul-Tarazi, was approached by our reporter with a view of getting a statement from him regarding the intervention of Arab League Secretary General Azzam Pasha in the dispute between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The Afghanistan Minister detailed to our reporter the points of differences between the two countries. According to him, the present dispute developed following a statement by the Pakistan Governor General demanding the annexation of the frontier area of the Yurand District which is inhabited by a tribe of seven million, although negotiations on the status of this tribe began by the late Pakistan Governor General Muhammad Ali Jinnah had been going on smoothly.

The Afghanistan Minister concluded his statement by expressing his country's feelings toward Pakistan as "Islamic brotherly feelings" and by reiterating "how is it that Pakistan which is an Islamic State denies Afghanistan's right to govern this tribe, while Britain has recognized such a right."

ZIONISTS.....

ZIONISTS PURCHASE COMMERCIAL VESSELS

Al Ayyam: A report datelined Beirut indicates that according to despatch from Lebanese Legations abroad the Zionists have purchased from the United States 15 commercial vessels to be used for transportation of goods between the States and the port of Haifa, Palestine.

IMPORTANT AMERICAN DECISION

Al 'Alam: As exemplifying the great concern of the American Government with the outside world following the World War II by adopting the Marshall Plan which aimed at relieving the afflicted nations in one side and at imposing its financial, economic and political domination on the other, this paper boasts of having preceded other papers in publishing the minutes of May 18 meeting of the American Congress in which a proposal by 50 congressmen was adopted regarding the establishment of a 15-member committee to study and report on the conditions in the Near Eastern countries. The paper describes the suggestion as very important and serious and advises the Arabs to be aware of what has been going in Washington regarding their countries and of the results of such actions.

ARAB AFFAIRS

Transfer of Refugees

Al Inqilab: The International Red Cross Association has taken a decision to transfer about 1500 Arab refugees from the district of Aleppo to Homs in view of the density of population in Aleppo and in view of the need for manpower in the Homs area.

ZIONIST SCHEME

Al Nasr: Having strengthened themselves in Palestine following the establishment of their state thanks to disagreement of Arab statesmen and leaders, the Zionists presently strive to expand into the Arab countries. The Zionists are aware that they could not attain their objectives except by sowing disagreement and hatred among the Arab states and by spreading destructive doctrines and ideas among Arab nations. Accordingly, the Jewish Government has prepared a scheme containing the principles of the Zionist policy internally and externally. The scheme is

being studied.....

(Pr. Dig. 106/7)

being studied now by the Government of Tel-Aviv, and when approved it will be referred to a special committee which will work out the details for proper implementation. Al Masri's correspondent in Jerusalem has succeeded in obtaining a version of the Zionist scheme which runs as follows:

1. Necessary measures for the immigration of Jews into Palestine until their number becomes 10 millions
2. To make of Israel, by assistance of Jewish capital donated from America, England, South Africa, the greatest economic and industrial center in the Near East.
3. All efforts should be devoted to establish branches for American and British industries in Palestine so as to absorb and finance the greatest possible number of immigrants and to profit from the coming war for attainment of this aim.
4. To make of Israel the main center in the East for distribution of American products by exclusive Jewish representation of American firms and industries. Earnings resulting from such representations estimated at millions of dollars will be used for this objective.
5. Mobilization of the forces of World Jewry for strengthening the political and economic position of the Jews. For this reason the Jewish Agency will be maintained to connect World Jewry with Israel.
6. Maintenance of friendly relations with the Eastern and Western blocs; Spreading propaganda in America that the Jews are persecuted in Eastern countries and in the meantime spreading propaganda in the Eastern countries that America is withholding its support of the Zionists.
7. Preventing Arab countries from arming themselves, and using the forces of World Jewry to this end.
8. Disturbances of relations among Arab states by all means; exploitation of Arabs' disagreement, use of news agencies reports for creation of disagreement.
9. Disturbance of relations between the Arabs and international circles.
10. Collection of gold from Arab countries by any means and retaining it in Israel.
11. Spread of destructive doctrines among the Arabs; enlargement of the degree of disagreement among the classes.

12. Establishment

12. Establishment of a strong army to sustain this scheme, to ensure the success of this scheme politically and economically. Use of force if necessary.

Commenting on the aforementioned report Al Nasr comments "The Israeli scheme is obvious and well-planned. What have we done to check it? What is our plan for the future? The danger is imminent. The coming battle is a battle of life or death. It has become our sacred duty to be prepared to attain victory in two stages: first, to protect our country from the invasion prepared by Israel and sustained by its masters, the colonizers; and, second, to restart the campaign to liberate Palestine. The right of the strongest prevails today in the world and if "you do not crush your enemy he will certainly crush you".

In turn, Al Inqilab points out:

1. If the Jews could settle 10 millions in Israel and the Arab states remain in continuous conflict, the state of Israel shall certainly expand to Lebanon, Syria, the Jordan, and later to Egypt, Iraq and Sa'udi Arabia. To a doubtful man who thinks this is impossible we refer him to the 500,000 Jews who despite their non-preparedness in the past have succeed in overcoming seven Arab states having populations of over 45 millions. What could these seven weak Arab states do in future against ten million enemies who will be profiting from time, money, unification of command, and sincerity of their leaders. The result needs no argument, for the present lands of Israel can only hold one million Jews, and their Government will be compelled to invade the other Arab section in Palestine and thereafter will expand to all the Arab countries.

2. Making of Israel the greatest economic and industrial center in the Near East and the establishment of branches for American and British industries in Israel will certainly destroy Arab economy.

3. The maintenance of the Jewish Agency compared to the weakening of the Arab League is a catastrophe that the Arabs should strive to avoid.

4. Alas, the policy of Israel of maintaining good relations with the Eastern and Western blocs can be compared to countermet the funny policy of the Arabs who have contracted the enmity of one bloc and side with the other which has not ceased giving us one blow after the other and without whose help and support Israel could not have been established in Palestine.

5. Needless to emphasize that only with strong armies will the Arab states be able to check Israel's scheme.

FGH/JSS/ES/at

- 2 -

The Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs has taken a judicious measure to encourage tourists by reducing the entrance visa costs to Lebanon to 750 piasters for citizens of the Arab states and the transit visa costs to 75 piasters. This decision recommended by the Secretariat-General of the Arab League aims at unifying the visa tariffs in the Arab countries.

In Riyad, a wide propaganda campaign supported by His Majesty King Ibn Sa'ud is now being launched in Sa'udi Arabia in favor of vacationing in Lebanon. The Beirut Government has promised to provide all necessary aid for this purpose. It is anticipating that several members of the Sa'udi Arabian Royal Family will pass their summer in the Lebanon.

Evening Commentary

As evening commentary for Monday, June 6, the Syrian Broadcasting Station has read an article which appears on page 6 of the Beirut U.S.I.S. bulletin which is supplied by Damascus USIS. The date of the bulletin is Monday, June 6, 1949, and can be supplied to all those concerned upon demand. The subject of the talk was AMERICANS LINE LEBAANESE SUGGESTION TO AND WOMEN IN HOME, and consisted of a review of the lectures made by Mrs. Van Zandt, writer and lecturer, on her recent visit to the Middle East.

Only the anti-penultimate paragraph was omitted, which reads as follows:

"She expressed the belief, however, that in attaining economic help from the west, the Arab nations would gain increasing success at the rate at which they could demonstrate their ability to work together and to unify their objectives."

es

DAMASCUS RADIO COMMENTARY

Noon Commentary, June 6

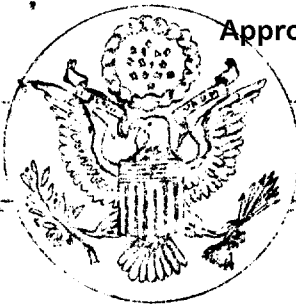
The Arab World Moves Ahead

The Arab World is becoming more and more conscious of the necessity of seeking new friendships, in order to assure its independence. It is naturally looking toward countries who have suffered under the yoke of imperialism for a long time, and Islamic countries in particular. It has recently been pointed out that numerous contacts have been established between Pakistan statesmen and Arab authorities, all who have unanimously expressed their strong desire to inaugurate an era of fruitful cooperation between their respective countries both in the political and economic fields.

It is worthwhile mentioning here that Amir 'Adil Arslan, the Acting Premier and Minister of foreign affairs has just proposed that an arbitration committee be set up composing representatives of the Arab countries to settle the conflict between Pakistan and Afghanistan as regards the frontier territories. This proposal by the deputy premier and minister of foreign affairs of Syria has already been accepted by the Karachi Government. The reply of the Kabul Government is expected to be received soon. Amir 'Adil Arslan believes that this conflict can easily be settled with Arab intervention and that a favorable solution for both parties will very likely be found. This act will surely strengthen the relations between the Middle East and the Asiatic center.

While the Arab countries are engaged in developing their relations with the Islamic states, they are not neglecting the strengthening of their relations with their neighbor states. The active part played by the Arab delegates in the United Nations for the independence of Libya is well-known. It has recently been announced in Cairo that Amir Muhammad al-Khattabi, brother of Amir 'Abd-al-Karim has left Egypt for Riyadh with an Egyptian passport. According to well-informed sources in the Egyptian capital, the mission of Amir Muhammad is to solicit financial aid from King Ibn Sa'ud as well as his moral support in the struggle of the North Africans for the liberation of their country.

The Lebanese.....



AMERICAN LEGATION

= DAMASCUS =

Daily Review of the Syrian Press

The following is an informal digest of material from the local Arabic Press, and is in no way to be considered as an official translation. It should not be quoted nor attributed to the Legation.

No. 107

(FOR STAFF USE ONLY)

PRESS DIGEST, WEDNESDAY, June 8, 1949.

~*~*~

NEWSPAPERS REVIEWED:

Alif Ba', Al Nasr, Al Inqilab, Al Ayyam, Al Wasas,
Al 'Alam, Al Shabab, Al Nazir, and al Jabal.

-----oOo-----

DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

ELECTIONS IN SYRIA.

Legislative Decree No. 111

"The Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Armed Forces
and Prime Minister,

"In accordance with legislative decree No.1 dated
April 2, 1949.

"In accordance with legislative decree No. 106 of June
4, 1949, concerning seeking the opinion of the people by
calling them to vote by secret ballot on matters leading to
the restoration of constitutional life in Syria; and

"In accordance

(Pr. Dig. 107/2)

"In accordance with the decision of the Council of Ministers No. 218 of June 6, 1949;

DECREES THE FOLLOWING:

Chapter I - General Provisions.

Article 1. A direct secret referendum and election will be held to answer all questions cited in the list attached to this legislative decree and to elect a President for the Republic.

Article 2. Saturday, June 25, 1949, is fixed as a date for conducting the referendum and election provided for in article 1 of this legislative decree.

The referendum and elections will start at 7 hours of the said day, and end at 19 hours.

Article 3. Electors who possess the qualifications provided for in the electoral Law No. 325 of May 22, 1947, and whose names appear in the electoral lists will be eligible for voting. (Law No. 325 provides in Article 9: "Each Syrian male, who is of 20 years of age or more on the first day of January in the year on which elections are held, is an elector in the electoral zone in which he is registered, provided he enjoys civil and political rights and is not deprived of electoral competency". - Reviewer)

Article 4. The Qaza is an electoral zone for referendum and election. Quarters in cities and towns and districts in Qazas are considered centers for referendum and election provided the number of electors at each center shall not exceed 1,500. If in a voting center this number is exceeded the center should be divided. In Qazas where there are no districts, the villages are divided into referendum and election centers in proportion to the number of electors above.

Chapter II - Candidacy Provisions

Article 5. To become a candidate for the Presidency, a man should be Syrian, enjoying his civil rights, and of 40 years of age or more on the day of candidacy.

Article 6. Candidacy for the Presidency will be performed by a written declaration signed by the Candidate and presented to the Muhafiz against a written and numbered receipt mentioning the date of presentation which will be given to the Candidate after ascertaining his possession of the qualifications for

candidacy

candidacy cited in the previous article.

Article 7. Declarations for candidacy will be accepted from June 15, 1949, until 1900, June 19, 1949.

Article 8. Upon the expiration of the period of candidacy, the Muhafiz will prepare a proces-verbal containing the names of candidates which he will cable to the Prime Ministry which in turn declares promptly the candidates' names and transmits them to all Muhafazas for publication at all ballot centers.

Article 9. The referendum and election by nomad and semi-urban tribes will be performed in the same method in force, in accordance with articles 57 and 61 of Electoral Law No. 325 of May 22, 1947.

Chapter III- Referendum and Election Operations.

Article 10. The places of referendum and election centers will be fixed, and the electoral lists of each center will be announced by a decision of the Muhafiz or Qaimmaqam within at least one week from the date of the announcement.

Article 11. Supervision of referendum and election centers in centers of muhafazas and qazas will be undertaken by a committee of three persons, one of whom will be the mukhtar. The qaimmaqam or muhafiz will nominate the other two members from the Municipal Council, the Qaza Council, and Civil Servants, one of whom will be appointed Chairman.

In district centers, the Committee will be composed of the Mukhtar and two members of the Municipal Council or Village Council, or from electors who have a good knowledge of reading and writing. One of the three will be nominated Chairman.

Article 12. If a member of the Committee abstains, the Chairman will replace him with one of the electors present at the elections, and if the whole committee abstains it is the duty of the respective Qaimmaqam or Muhafiz to nominate another in its place.

Article 13. The Chairman of the Committee will keep order and within the voting center he will possess the function of a Magistrate. He may seek the help of security men when necessary. The Muhafiz or Qaimmaqam or Mudir Nahiya has the right to supervise the course of election and the referendum.

Article 14. A candidate or his representative (designated by
the Candidate

(Pr. Dig. 107/4)

the Candidate in writing) has the right to be present to supervise the election and referendum operations. No one else is entitled to exercise this right.

Article 15. The legal number for referendum and voting is considered sufficient if the number of voters in an electoral zone reaches 60% of the total electorate. If not, the ballot boxes in this zone will be sealed by the seal of the voting committee and the contestants' representatives. The boxes will then be guarded by Security men and the Constestants' representatives.

Seals will be taken off the following day at 7 a.m. in the presence of the Committee and contestants' representatives, and the referendum and election resumed until 7 p.m. It will be then considered that the number of electors who exercised their voting right is sufficient.

Article 16. Each elector will come to the referendum and election center and, after the Chairman of the Committee checks his identity card and puts a cross on it and on his name on the list, he will be given a ballot endorsed by the Voting Committee's seal and a list of the candidates. The voter will write the answers in person or may charge a member of the Committee or one of the contestants' representatives to do this for him if he is illiterate, and then himself place the ticket in the box.

Article 17. answers to all questions shall be either YES or NO, except that concerning the election of the President of the Republic to which the voter will write the name of the Candidate he chooses.

Article 18. After termination of the referendum and election operations, the Committee will begin to count publicly the number of ballots without reading their contents, and then count the number of electors crossed off on the lists. If it is established that the number of tickets varies more than 5% from the number of electors who have voted in the electoral zone, the voting is considered null and void and must be held again the following day. If the excess is less than 5%, the excess is destroyed without reading the contents of the tickets.

Article 19. Blank ballots, or ballots containing other than the words YES or NO or words to that effect or carrying the name of a non-candidate or an illegible name will be considered null and void.

Article 20.

(Pr. Dig. 107/5)

Article 20. The voting Committee decides on all protests submitted to it concerning the course of elections. Decisions are subject to appeal before the central committee of the electoral zone, the decisions of which are final. Protests will not delay the course of the referendum and election.

Article 21. The sorting of votes is carried out continuously in the voting centers, and the returns announced publicly. The voting committee will next prepare proces-verbal stating specifically the answers to the questions and the election returns, together with the decisions and measures taken by the Committee during the course of elections. The Proces-Verbaux will be submitted immediately to the Central Committee of the electoral zone.

Article 22. The Central Committee is composed of the Muhafiz or Qaimmaqam as Chairman, the Attorney General or First Instance Judge, two members from the Municipal Council and two members from the Qaza Council.

Article 23. Immediately upon the receipt of the proces-verbaux from the voting centers, the Central Committee will meet. The returns of the proces-verbaux will be counted and a general proces verbal prepared and results announced. Copy of the general proces verbal will be submitted to the Minister of Interior.

Article 24. A contestant is elected and answers are considered affirmative by absolute majority of the valid number of voters who have actually participated in the referendum and election.

Article 25. In case no absolute majority is attained, the referendum and elections will be postponed till Saturday, July 2, 1949, from 7 to 19 hours when the simple majority will be sufficient, regardless of the number of participants in the referendum and election in each center.

Article 26. The Minister of Interior will submit copies of the proces verbaux upon their receipt to the Prime Ministry, and the returns will be announced by a Council of Ministers decree.

CHAPTER IV - Electoral Crimes.

Article 27. Any person asked to take part in a committee or charged with work dealing with the achievement of referendum and election operations and who refrains or refuses the charge without justification is subject to a fine between LS. 50 to LS. 250.

Article 28

(Pr. Dig. 107/7)

QUESTIONS OF THE REFERENDUM:

Question 1. Do you agree to the direct election by secret ballot of the President of the Republic for the first time by the people from among Syrians who enjoy their civil rights and are at least 40 years of age when presenting their candidacy, that his election be declared by the Council of Ministers and that the period of office of the Presidency be fixed by the Constitution?

Answer.....

Question 2. Do you agree to vesting in the President the power to prepare the new constitution by a legislative decree taken by the Council of Ministers within a period not exceeding 4 months consequent to his election provided the new constitution be ratified by the people in a referendum or by Parliament?

Answer.....

Question 3. Do you agree that the President of the Republic be empowered, pending the preparation and ratification of the new Constitution, to issue legislative decrees, including those of constitutional character, taken by the Council of Ministers?

Answer.....

Question 4. Do you agree that the prerogative granted to the President of the Republic specified in Question 3 will have retroactive effect on all legislative decrees issued since March 30, 1949?

Answer.....

Question 5. Whom among the candidates do you elect as President of the Republic?

Answer.....

(Remark: answers for the first four questions should be either YES or NO, answer for the fifth question should be the name of the candidate chosen by the elector from among the list of candidates.)

LANDS TO LABOR UNION:

According to Al 'Alam, the Department of Public Estate
has

(Pr. Dig. 107/8)

has approved a request by the Labor Union to grant it free lands for building of workers' town. The area granted is reported as one million square meters of land at Mazzah. The subject has been referred to the Council of Ministers for consideration.

A SYRIAN AMBASSADOR:

Al Inqilab: For the first time in the history of the Syrian diplomatic representation an ambassador has been appointed. Mr. Husni al-Barazi, the former Chief of State and lately the Military Governor and Muhafiz of Aleppo, has been reportedly appointed as Syrian Ambassador to Teheran and other neighboring countries.

FOREIGN OFFICE CHANGES:

Al Inqilab: Mr. Farid Shahlawi, Cl.II Gr. III Civil Servant and First Secretary in the Foreign Service has been appointed in Charge of the Consular and Economic Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Yurki Hakim, a probationer in the Foreign Service, has been transferred to the Syrian Consulate in New York.

By a decree the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has taken a decision to limit the Foreign Service Officials to the holders of university degrees.

REFUGEES SHELTERED UNDER TENTS:

Al Inqilab: Accompanied by the Chief physician of the Red Cross Societies, Mr. Munir al-Malki visited the Sa'asa area in Hauran and inspected the conditions of 8,500 Arab refugees sheltered under tents there.

A SYRO LEBANESE MILITARY MEETING:

Al Ayyam: Following a telephone conversation between Colonel Za'im and the Lebanese Prime Minister Riayd Bey al-Sulh a joint meeting military meeting was scheduled to be held between the Syrian and the Lebanese Chiefs of Army Staff in Beirut today (June 8) to discuss the question of Syrian soldiers' infiltration into Lebanese territory.

OFFICIAL

(Pr. Dig. 107/9)

OFFICIAL ELEMENTARY DEGREE EXAMINATIONS:

Al Ayyam: 2667 male and 1161 female students of Damascus elementary schools will pass elementary degree examinations today (June 8) prepared by the Ministry of Instruction. From the rural areas of Damascus 888 male and 91 female students have registered for the examinations.

MUHAFIZ OF URBAN DAMASCUS:

Al Ayyam: The acting Muhafiz of Urban Damascus, Fu'ad Bey Mahasin, who is also Secretary General of the Ministry of Interior, has officially taken over his duties and entrusted Sa'id al-Yusuf, the President of the Municipal Council, to carry out all administrative duties of the Muhafizat.

SYRIAN ATTITUDE WORRIES BEN GURION:

Alif Ba': A report datelined Tel Aviv states that Ben Gurion has expressed his concern over the obstinate attitude of Syria and stated that only one alternative remains for Israel namely the United Nations, in order to use all available means for the success of the Israelite-Syrian truce talks.

MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT OF SYRIA:

Alif Ba': Our reporter learns that talks have been conducted between the Syrian authorities and the American Legation in Damascus for the latter to equip Syria with agricultural machinery.

Minister of Finance and National Economy Hasan Bey al-Jabbara is reported to have decided to visit Washington with Agriculture Minister Nuri Ibish to continue these negotiations with the American authorities.

ARAB AFFAIRS

KOPPER'S MISSION IN DAMASCUS:

Al Inqilab: Mr. "Sam Kopper" the Special Assistant to the Director of the Middle East and African Affairs in

the

(Pr. Dig. 107/10)

the Department of State arrived in Damascus by plane at 1:30 p.m. June 6, 1949. He stayed the overnight in the American Legation, residence and begun his official contacts with Syrian political circles the next day.

Visit to Faris al-Khuri:

The first visit Mr. Sam Kopper paid was to Faris Bey al-Khuri in his office. He was accompanied by Mr. Keeley, the American Minister Plenipotentiary to Syria. In this one-hour long visit Mr. Kopper expressed to Faris Bey the American viewpoint regarding the settlement of the Palestinian question and the problem of the Arab refugees.

In the Foreign Office:

At about 12:00 a.m. Mr. Kopper proceeded to the Foreign Office accompanied by Mr. Keeley to interview Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Amir Adil Arslan for a period of half an hour during which time the question of Palestine and recent developments in the problem of the repatriation of Arab refugees to Palestine as well as the Arab attitude toward the Lausanne Conference were raised. He also expressed to Amir Arslan the American viewpoint regarding these questions as discussed in the Lausanne Conference.

It was about 1:30 p.m. when the American statesman returned to the Legation for a rest prior to his visit to Colonel Za'im. Mr. Keeley also accompanied Mr. Kopper on his visit with Colonel Za'im at the Ministry of National Defense shortly after 1:30 p.m.

Mr. Kopper's Planned visits:-

From a reliable source comes the news that Mr. Kopper is scheduled to leave for Beirut today (June 8) and then to Baghdad, Teheran, and Amman. He will then continue his flight to Ankara then back to Cairo, Tripolitania and finally to Washington, via London. Immediately after his arrival in Washington it is understood Mr. Kopper report to his Government on his tour of these countries.

Mr. Kopper refused to make a statement of his mission and refused to enter into conversation on the Palestinian question.

American Expansion of Influence:

These American visits have raised the utmost concern of the Foreign Political circles which believe that Mr. Kopper's visit aims at an objective more extensive than that of the Palestine question. They further believe that Mr. Kopper's

visit

(Pr. Dig. 107.11)

visit is closely connected with the international situation, and that the cold-blooded American drive which has collided with British influences in the Middle East has been unscreened to disclose its reality.

A Statement by a foreign political source explains this rivalry to a certain extent: Mr. Strang, Permanent under Secretary of the British Foreign Office, has also begun conducting similar visits to the Arab Capitals aiming at regaining part of the Arabs confidence which Britain had lost following its anti-Arab attitude on the question of Palestine despite its persistent appearance as "neutral." Mr. Strong was, therefore, entrusted by his Government with touring the Arab Capitals and suggesting a new settlement of the question of Palestine as a palliative to the Arabs' hatred of Britain and a compromise designed to reestablish Britain's influence in the Middle Eastern countries. Realizing that its interests, and its vital petroleum interests necessitate obtaining Arab friendship alone, and before the others, the American Government has sent Mr. Kopper to interrupt the British attempt. The (rivalry) between America and Britain were carried out in the persons of Mr. Kopper and Mr. Strong.

It is, therefore, evident, as explained by a political source, that Mr. Kopper has been attempting to find a compromise settlement to the Palestinian question on the basis of 1947-Partition plan with certain alterations.

From information, comments, and statements obtained from circles which were closely connected with Mr. Kopper, it can be summed up that "the American Settlement" carried by Mr. Kopper is based on the placing of the Arab portion of Palestine - according to the Partition Plan - under a UN trusteeship until its economic and social prosperity are achieved. According to Mr. Kopper's belief, the majority of the Arab refugees desiring to return to the Jewish portion of Palestine, are of the wealthy class, owners of lands and properties. It seems that the American Government advocates such a settlement in order to put an end to maneuvers carried out by certain Arab States aiming at regional expansion.

It was further learned that Mr. Kopper will leave for Amman via Beirut and then return to Damascus for the second time.

F.GH/JSS/ES/aet.

DAMASCUS RADIO COMMENTARY

Noon Commentary, June 7

The Syrian Broadcasting Stations noon commentary on June 7 was taken from Monday, June 5, English bulletin of the USSR. It dealt with the Council of Foreign Ministers now convening in Paris.

Evening Commentary

Al Ayyam, the Damascus daily, has published an article on the decision recently taken by the Syrian Cabinet to hold a public referendum in which the electorate will be asked to give their views on the general affairs of the country and the re-establishment of constitutional activities in Syria. This decision, says Al Ayyam, is a great step taken by the new government toward the development of the country in conformity with international developments.

The reform campaign undertaken by the new regime is multifold. It began with an effort by H.E. Husni Za'ia to consolidate a disintegrated state, to restore the prestige of the government and to strengthen the army which is the symbol of the country's independence. A legislative reform followed in which old laws not compatible with the modern requirements of any country were deleted.

The new regime has been able to realize in a period of two months what could not be realized in several years by the former governments. Hardly had two months elapsed since the day the coup d'etat was effected than H.E. the Syrian Premier declared that the people will soon enjoy, freely and without any restrictions, their constitutional activities.

In a few days the Syrian people will witness a public referendum in which the nation will freely and without intimidation express its wishes and aspirations. The decision recently taken by the Syrian Cabinet to reestablish constitutional activities and to hold a free public referendum has been unanimously received with the greatest satisfaction. For the Syrian people are unanimous in their wish to establish the government and control of the country on sure and sound foundations. This is the reason why the people have been wholeheartedly supporting the champion of the new regime and facilitating his efforts to complete his mission of national reform.

es



AMERICAN LEGATION

= DAMASCUS =

Daily Review of the Syrian Press

The following is an informal digest of material from the local Arabic Press, and is in no way to be considered as an official translation. It should not be quoted nor attributed to the Legation.

No. 108

(FOR STAFF USE ONLY)

PRESS DIGEST, THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 1949

-*-*-

'PAPERS REVIEWED:

Alif Ba', Al Nasr, Al Inqilab, Al Ayyam, Al Qabas,
Al 'Alam, Al Shabab, Al Nazir, and Al Jabal.

-----oOo-----

DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

THE ONLY CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENCY:

Alif Ba': Explanatory instructions have been issued to the Administrative Affairs Directorate of the Ministry of Interior as supplement to Legislative Decree No. 111 regarding the referendum and the restoration of constitutional life in the country.

The Ministry has urged the Muhafazat to prepare lists of electors, define the electoral centers, and form the committees.

There is no doubt that Colonel Husni al-Za'im will be the President of the Republic for none of the country's statesmen will possibly nominate himself for the candidacy. Za'im's election will be automatic.

To cover

To cover the expenses of the elections a Legislative decree has been issued appropriating 250,000 Pounds Syrian.

CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS WITH SPAIN:

Alif Ba': There are all indications that in the recent visit of the Brazilian Minister to Deputy Prime Minister 'Adil Arslan the question of a cultural and economic Agreement between Brazil and Syria was raised and discussed. The Syrian Government has requested the Lebanese Government to supply a copy of the Cultural Agreement reached with Brazil in order to study it and draft a similar agreement.

In the meantime Amir 'Adil invited the Brazilian Minister to a dinner party attended by the Foreign Office Directory General Ibrahim al-Ustuwani as well as other officials of the Brazilian Legation.

SECURITY VISITORS IN DAMASCUS:

Al Qabas: The Director of Police and Security of the city of Baghdad, Iraq, has arrived in Damascus and stayed at the Orient Palace Hotel.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING:

Al Nasr: The Directorate General of Propaganda, Publication, and Broadcasting (DGPPB) issued late last night the following communique on the Council of Ministers meeting:

"At 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 8, the Council of Ministers held a meeting at the Government House under the chairmanship of the Commander in Chief of the Army and Armed Forces and the Prime Minister. The Council approved a) the appropriation of 250,000 Pounds Syrian to cover the expenses of the elections; b) the Legislative Decree regarding the regulations of the Insurance and Savings Corporations, c) the cancellation of arrest warrants against certain tribal personnel in the district of Jazirah; d) the appointment of a Secretary General for the Ministry of Instruction; e) the ratification of the International Labor Agreement No. 89 regarding night employment of women; f) the Legislative Decree regarding limitation of number of official teachers employed in private schools; and g) other administrative projects. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m."

BIOGRAPHY OF ZA'IM'S FATHER:

Al Nasr: In a three-column Article this paper quotes a book

(Pr. Dig. 108/3)

by the Great intellectual Shaykh al-Tabbakh in which the biographic data of Shaykh Muhammad Rida al-Za'im, the father of Colonel Husni al-Za'im, is given in detail. He is described as "a daring Shaykh who with his constant action intervened with rulers against corruption." The real name of the Colonel's father is given as "Shaykh Muhammad Rida Ibn Muhammad Yusuf al-Daqqaq, famous as 'al Za'im al-Dimashqi', born in 1855 Damascus and died in 1915 while fighting on the side of the Ottoman Armies against the British in Suez Canal.

ARAB AFFAIRS

DESIRABLE LEBANESE ANTI-SMUGGLING ACTIONS:

Alif Ba': At the request of the Syrian Government the Competent Lebanese authorities held a meeting in the presence of Jamil Shihab, Director of the Customs, and the Director of the Security forces and discussed the points raised by Syria regarding the smuggling of foodstuffs to the Jews in Palestine. The following decisions were passed:

1. Establishment of Customs outposts along the frontiers and the patrolling by customs officials of the frontier districts.
2. Restriction of shipments of foodstuffs to villages adjacent to the frontiers.
3. Cooperation with the Syrian Security forces to stop all smuggling activities.

NURI AL-SAID'S WHITE BOOK:

Al Nasr: Arab League circles in Cairo report that the Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri Pasha al-Sa'id is preparing a White Book dealing with his visit to Syria immediately following the Coup d'Etat. These circles believe that Nuri Pasha aims at publishing this Book to acquit himself from the allegations credited to him that he had been advocating the realization of the Fertile Crescent Plan. There is likelihood that Nuri Pasha will state in this Book that "he had not raised such a matter with Colonel Za'im, but expressed his readiness to extend to Syria all military assistance necessary."

WHAT

(Pr. Dig. 108/4)

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR:

Under the above headline, Editor Husriah treats the latest reports on the Zionist occupation of Jabal Al-Mukabir in Jerusalem, which the Reconciliation Commission declared a neutral area and writes:

"What do the Arabs wait for? Do they expect the occupation of all Jerusalem to arrange demonstrations and protests and utter statements?

"Is there any other interpretation for 'Amman's silence other than yielding to the spirit of defeat and disgrace and acceptance of the fait accompli?"

F.GH/JSS/LS/aet.

DAMASCUS RADIO COMMENTARY

June 8, 1949.

Noon Commentary

The presence in the Middle East of Sir William Strang, Permanent Under Secretary of the Foreign Office, has been much talked about during these last few days. This important British official has had the occasion to meet Arab statesmen in several Middle East Capitals, as well as contacting the Zionist authorities in Palestine. It should however be pointed out that Sir Strang has come to this part of the world to collect information. He will undoubtedly return to England with many useful pieces of information. It is to be hoped therefore that the results of this visit will be felt by a new and better orientation of the British policy in this part of the world.

It seems however that the United Kingdom has lost during recent years the clear vision it used to have as to the real aspirations of the Arab World. The various interventions by Britain in the Palestine conflict are well known. How can England hope therefore that the Arabs are included among her allies? How, with the recent blow of Cyrenaica, could Great Britain dissipate the anger of the Libyan people and of all the Arab nationalists?

It is expected that a conference of British diplomatic representatives in the Middle East will be held in London shortly to discuss the different aspects of the situation in this part of the world. It is to be hoped that Great Britain will give a new direction to her policy in the Middle East.

It is worthwhile pointing here to those conditions indispensable to the peaceful collaboration by the Arabs with the outside world. The Arabs demand first of all that the big powers no more consider them as states destined to gravitate within the orbit of their policy. The Arab world is quite determined to lead an independent existence, and disputes between rival blocks of nations, cannot alter its determination. It is in urgent need of peace and tranquility in order to improve the fate of the masses. The second condition is that Europe and America keep in mind the unquestionable fact that all the Arab countries, those of the Middle East as well as those in North Africa, consider themselves as one and the same family. Any blow directed against any of these countries hits them all without distinction.

It is on.....

It is on this point particularly that Sir William Strang, permanent Under Secretary of the Foreign Office, can provide his government with wise counsels at the end of his visit to the Middle East.

Evening Commentary

The political lull observed recently is still continuing. Everywhere nothing sensational is taking place. International conferences eagerly awaited by millions are wasted one after another in the labyrinth of procedure.

The various delegations are beginning to doubt whether it is worthwhile carrying on such absurd negotiations. In Paris, the four Foreign Ministers have been now for 5 weeks regularly holding one or two meetings each day. It is understood that they have come to the French capital in order to discuss question of the first importance to the future of the world, such as the problem of Germany and the Austrian peace treaty. The first sessions of the present conference proceeded in an atmosphere of somewhat cordial and mutual understanding. The World press pointed out with satisfaction that the Soviet delegate, Mr. Vychinsky, never had until now such a smile on his face. But, the optimism which accompanied the first steps of this diplomatic meeting was quickly dissipated, as soon as the negotiators had reached the main objects of debate. Once again the world split into the two classical divisions: Western powers on the one and Russia on the other hand.

In Lausanne, negotiations have been carried on continuously since the 26th of April last between representatives of the Arab countries and the Zionists. Due to the obstinacy of the Zionist representatives, who refuse to base their discussion on the United Nations decision relating to the repatriation of the refugees, this conference has been unable to achieve anything. Here, as well as in Paris, pessimism is now prevailing.

In Batavia, negotiations between Holland and the Indonesian republican heads are still proceeding very slowly. In spite of the optimistic communiques issued regularly claiming that both parties are sparing no effort to reach a mutual understanding, it seems that the situation created by the Dutch aggressors against the Indonesian Republic has not altered.

es

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

June 6, 1949

Review of the Local Arabic Press
Appearing on June 5, 1949.BEIRUT

Muhyiddin an-Nasuli, this paper's chief editor, spent last Friday visiting the Syrian troops along the Syrian-Israeli front with Colonel Hosni al-Zaim. Being greatly impressed by the morale of the troops and by their confidence in al-Zaim, An-Nasuli says that Syria is fully performing its duty toward Palestine and wonders what is preventing the other Arab countries from playing their part in "this long struggle." Stating that "one man in Syria has, in a few weeks, been able to build up the Syrian army from scratch", An-Nasuli calls upon the Lebanese people to strengthen their army and to introduce compulsory military training "which will alone melt us into one crucible and restore our manliness to us, manliness which is being defeated by this materialism which is storming Lebanon and its people.... Sister Syria has set a high example in regenerating the Syrian army. We must therefore follow in its footsteps if we are truly zealous in safeguarding Lebanon's existence..."

AL-'ANAL

answers those who accuse the Phalanges of being sectarian, that the Phalanges are against all sectarian movements and that they believe in Lebanon as the abode of liberty, regardless of all religious beliefs. The paper then calls its critics "enemies of Lebanon who are annoyed by our fanaticism for our country.... Infidels who wage war against sectarianism but actually fight religion, every religion. They trade in principles, they trade in their consciences and the consciences of their followers and auction them on all occasions..."

ASH-SHARQ

urges the Lebanese Government to buy Syrian and not foreign wheat because, it argues, Lebanon's agreement with the International Food Organization obliges it to purchase wheat from the United States at fixed prices for several years. It charges that the United States is trying, through this Organization, to monopolize the world wheat market and concludes that Lebanon's signing of the agreement is a big mistake.

This paper states that for the first time since the Syrian coup d'etat, Zuheir Usairan of AL-HADAF; and Sa'id Fraiha, of AL-SAYYAD, have visited Colonel al-Zaim in Damascus who welcomed and accompanied them on a trip to the Syrian-Israeli front. The paper hopes, in this connection, that Hanna Ghosn, of AD-DIYAR will also have an opportunity to visit the Syrian capital because, it adds,

- 2 -

"Our colleague al-Ghosh is one of the outstanding newspapermen who hold the torch of sincere Arabism and who earnestly promotes the ideal creed that Lebanon's relations with Syria and Syria's relations with Lebanon are the work of God."

AN-NAHAR

writes that it is rumored that Premier Riadh as-Solh's Government will resign if it fails to overcome the differences that have arisen between its members because of the Mukhtar of 'Anut. The editorial then takes this opportunity to enumerate the factors which should have brought about the downfall of the Cabinet, beginning with the Palestine question and ending with the recent dispute with Syria, and concludes:

"Suppose the Cabinet intends to resign, we can not but say that it would be a shame for a cabinet that has not fallen under the above burdens, to resign because of a Mukhtar, even though he is the Mukhtar of 'Anut."

AL-HAYAT

urges the necessity of strengthening the Lebano-Syrian common interests.

AL-RUWAD

reminds Colonel Hosni al-Zaim of the friendly stand the Lebanese people have taken toward his coup and of the traditional friendship of the Lebanese and Syrian peoples, and appeals to the authorities in both countries to settle their differences and to collaborate in order to meet the dangers threatening both countries.

TELAGRAPH

reaffirms its faith in the republican system of Lebanon, urges co-operation with Syria and says in part:

"We hope that the republican system will be restored in Syria as soon as possible because the differences in the systems of the two sister countries will create conflicting views and misunderstandings at every moment. We thus repeat this sincere appeal to Colonel Hosni al-Zaim and remind him of his promises to the people to restore the republic and liberties within two months.... We are republicans and we therefore advocate the republican system in Lebanon and Syria on the strongest bases of liberty..."

AL-HADAF

Zuhair Usairan, the publisher of this paper, writes that the Syrian authorities invited him last Friday to visit Damascus and to observe the progress that

- 3 -

has been achieved since the coup d'etat there. He then mentions how Colonel al-Zaim was annoyed with him because he expressed fears about the fate of Syria during the early days of the coup and how the Syrian authorities prevented him from entering Syria. While in Damascus, Hsairan accompanied Colonel al-Zaim on a trip to the Syrian-Israeli front. He was greatly impressed by the high morale and preparedness of the Syrian army for he writes: "During two months, this man (referring to Al-Zaim) has been able to accomplish miracles in his people and army... Why don't the other Arab countries follow his example and strengthen their armies..."

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

June 7, 1949

Review of the Local Arabic Press
Appearing on June 7, 1949.

BEIRUT

writes editorially that according to Arab circles "Premier Riadh as-Solh has addressed a note to the Arab states embodying information on the overflow of Zionists into Palestine to forestall the repatriation of the Arab refugees to their homeland, so much so that the number of the Jews in Palestine has now jumped to 1,200,000." In thanking as-Solh for his awareness of this danger, the editorial says that notes are not enough while Lebanon is being threatened by the Jews before all the others. It then goes on to ask what have the Lebanese done to check this peril:

"Have we strengthened the Lebanese army and made it equal to Israeli's army in number and equipment? Lebanon's inhabitants are equal in number to those of Israeli.

"Have we submitted the compulsory military training bill to Parliament?...

"Have we allotted the major portion of our budget to the Army, despite the magnitude of the sacrifice?...

"Have we extended our hands to the Arab states to co-operate with them in the military field and to unify everything relating to this aspect? Have we thought of entrusting the command of these armies to one military body which will be directed by one commander so that when the hour of defense strikes this army will be ready to advance and to defeat the enemy?"

In answer to these questions, the editorial says nothing of the sort has been accomplished. It then deplores the disunity and intrigues that are weakening the Arabs at a time when the Jews are mobilizing themselves and when Ben Gurion is stating that the second phase of the Jewish war would call for flying the Israeli flag from the Nile to the Euphrates. Finally, it demands that "those who are contented with addressing notes must either work or give way to others" and that Lebanon must follow Syria's example in strengthening its army.

BEIRUT publishes the following report at the top of its front page:

"Washington June 6 - (By BEIRUT'S Special Correspondent). A spokesman of the American Department of State has declared that reports published in certain Arab capitals to the effect that the United States Government has presented Israeli with a number of naval units as the nucleus for its fleet, are absolutely unfounded."

- 2 -

In reporting that Sir William Strang is expected to reach Beirut tomorrow, this paper states:

"It may be mentioned in this connection that Mr. Strang's arrival is coinciding with the arrival of Mr. Sam Kopper, the Oriental Adviser of the American Department of State. The Lebanese Foreign Office understands from the American Legation in Beirut that Mr. Kopper will arrive here in the middle of this week to get in touch with the members of the Lebanese Government in order to discuss with them matters relating to the Arab countries."

AL-HAYAT'S

Chief Editor reports that he met yesterday a UN Observer by chance who has returned to Beirut after two months' stay in Haifa. This Observer discussed with Kamil Muruwwa the political situation in Israeli which is summarized below as follows:

- 1 - The Jews feel that the "swallowing" phase is now over and that they must act moderately until they are able to digest what they have swallowed.
- 2 - They expect this digestion to be completed in two years at the utmost after which Israeli will expand externally to dominate the entire Arab East politically and economically.
- 3 - Israeli Foreign Office Spokesmen say that Lebanon will be the first objective of the new expansion. If the Lebanese Government would take a conciliatory attitude toward Israeli things would be alright. Otherwise, the Jews would resort to internal infiltration until they assure themselves of a friendly government in Lebanon.
- 4 - The Jews are confident that their new campaign will not meet with any serious international opposition, except Britain. But they depend upon their increasing strength, with America's sympathy and Russia's consent, to compel Britain not to interfere because they will promise Britain to protect its interests.

Kamil Muruwwa then says that the Observer's story must be true because Ben Gurion went even farther than this in his last speech. He then warns the Arab countries of the dire consequences if they fail to mobilize themselves and to forego all easy living.

- 3 -

AL-'AMAL

tells the Government that when it wants to plan the country's economy, it should seek the views of practical economists and not of those who derive their economic knowledge from books and scientific theories only.

AL-HADAF

refers to its yesterday's report on the visit its Chief Editor and a number of Lebanese newsmen paid to Damascus and then to the Syrian front with Colonel Hosni al-Zaim. The editorial says its report dealt only with the military preparedness of Syria and did not dwell on any other aspect of the present Syrian regime. However, it objects to the behavior of Muhyiddin an-Nasuli, Chief Editor of BAIRUT who, the editorial bitterly complains, said in the presence of the newsmen and Colonel al-Zaim that the economic relations between Syria and Lebanon could not be strengthened so long as Lebanon's government was headed by Riadh as-Solh. The editorial then continues:

"We can understand an-Nasuli when he asks Riadh as-Solh to quit the government because of his mishandling of the country's general foreign policy. We can understand him when he holds as-Solh responsible for the loss of Palestine and then asks him to leave the administration. But to do this because of his mere belief that al-Zaim's government will not be satisfied with Lebanon and will not reach understanding with it unless Riadh as-Solh leaves politics and the government, is something which is absolutely not clear to us..."

The editorial then recalls the praises An-Nasuli showered on Riadh as-Solh when they both were in Paris and wonders what has happened in the meantime to cause him to say that Riadh as-Solh is not fit to solve the Lebano-Syrian problems. It then concludes, after criticizing An-Nasuli in this fashion, that it is absolutely unnecessary for any one to say such things about the Prime Minister outside Lebanon, although they could be repeated daily in Lebanon when referring to internal issues.

AD-DIYAR

like AL-HADAF strongly criticizes Muhyiddin an-Nasuli for his utterances against Riadh as-Solh in the presence of Colonel Hosni al-Zaim of Syria.

SAWT AL-AHRAR

appeared today after five days' suspension during which it replaced its old types by new ones.

- 4 -

AN-NAHAR

understands that the purpose of Mr. Sam Kopper's visit to the Middle East "is to discuss the refugee problem, the activities of the Lausanne Conference, the project for assisting under developed countries and matters relating to the anti-communist campaign."

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

June 8, 1949

Review of the Local Arabic Press
Appearing on June 8, 1949.

BEIRUT

charges that the present Lebanese Government is dominated by one philosophy "the philosophy of hesitation, anxiety, evasiveness, indecision, timidity in bearing responsibilities.... According to this government, time will solve our knotty and complicated problems and will remedy all our maladies..." The editorial then reviews the projects the government has still left in abeyance and concludes:

"A hesitant and troubled government like this government - one of its members has already left Lebanon, two are intending to leave shortly, and two others are threatening to resign because of unimportant reasons - must not remain in power..."

AL-HAYAT

writes that "last Sunday, the Arabs, or some of them, celebrated the anniversary of the Great Arab Revolution which was started by the late King Husain ibn Ali. AL-HAYAT issued, in previous years, special editions on this occasion, to remind its readers of this revolution and of its purposes. But this year, we have purposely skipped it because the Palestine calamity has exceeded it by many stages." The editorial then reviews the principles on which the Arab Revolution has been based and enumerates the developments that have attended it ending with the Palestine "catastrophe".

AL-HAYAT'S Special Correspondent writes:

"Mr. Sam Kopper, the Oriental Adviser of the American Department of State will arrive in Beirut this morning, after having visited Cairo and Damascus, to continue his talks with the Arab states regarding the Arab East.

"We have inquired of an official at the American Legation concerning Mr. Kopper's visit and its relation to Truman's project or to the repatriation of the refugees. He replied 'This visit is not related to the said project, but it is probable that Mr. Kopper will study the conditions of the refugees and will endeavor to return them to their country.

"Political circles observe that Mr. Kopper is visiting the Arab East at the time Sir William Strang, the British Under Secretary of Foreign Affairs, is making his trip. Is this an undesigned coincidence? Have the two powers agreed to delegate their emissaries at the same time?

- 2 -

"We asked the American spokesman about this. He replied: 'It was decided that Mr. Strang reach Beirut at the end of last week. But his indisposition at Amman has been the sole cause which delayed his visit. This concurrence is just a coincidence and the visit of the one is not related to that of the other.'

"In spite of this denial, the political circles persist in the belief that the simultaneous visits are not a coincidence, although they feel as improbable the prevalence of understanding between America and England regarding the general policy in the Arab East, because each one of them follows its own special policy and because their differences are evident in most of their activities.."

AD-DIYAR

devotes its editorial to the subject of the "Clash of Anglo-American Influence" on the occasion of Sir William Strang's and Mr. Sam Kopper's visits to the Arab countries:

"America and Britain are two allies which are confronting Russia with one policy and with frozen nerves. The two powers are warm friends. They help one another when needed, and stab one another when needed also! The American influence surveys the expansive Middle Eastern arena through a British latticed window! While the Americans hate British and other windows, they agreed, in the beginning, merely to look and to observe. Things then developed and behold, America waded through the battle of influence in the Middle East to tear up a wide path for itself and for its vital interests between the mountains and valleys of British influence,

"Britain wishes America to stand along its side in the Communist-Democracy strife. But it hates the infiltration of American influence into the Middle East. First, Britain fought French influence. When it overcame this influence, it thought of absorbing the plunder slowly. It must have been greatly shocked when it found a new and strong influence overwhelming this East. It therefore craned its neck to see this new influence pushed by dollars and fed by petroleum!

"The rivalry between the two powers started slowly. The British policy was wise. It did not offer strong resistance but preferred circumvention, leniency and politeness. But the American influence was not versed in suave diplomatic methods and it thus attacked houses, fortresses and capitals and built for itself strong bases in Saudi Arabia and then extended them to Bahrain and Kuwait. It also proceeded to infiltrate into Syria and Lebanon. The British felt the gravity of the situation and the battle emerged from the world of civility

- 3 -

and secrecy to the world of rudeness and openness.

"There is a living demonstration of this rivalry in Damascus. America is backing and encouraging the coup d'etat while Britain is flirting with it in a manner which is not motivated by love or admiration. On the results of this battle in Damascus hangs the fate of American influence in this part of the Arab world.

"Mr. Strang, a senior official at the British Foreign Office will arrive here today, after having visited Cairo and Amman. Mr. Kopper, a senior official at the American Department of State is also due to arrive today after having visited Damascus. Both politicians intend to travel in the Arab and the Middle Eastern capitals. Is this simultaneous visit a coincidence? Are the two politicians coming to the Arab countries to ignite the fire of the contended influence? Are they two friends or enemies?

"Whether they are friends or enemies and whether they have come to solve their differences or to divide the spheres of influence, it is important for our government to watch the situation with great caution and to benefit from it, if possible! The most important thing is vigilance so that we might not be like corpses torn by the claws of the two lions!"

This paper publishes a telegram the Secondary students of Beirut have addressed to the Syrian Foreign Office protesting against the Syrian government's arrests of nationalists "who are known for their struggle for the independence of the Republic against the imperialistic forces which want to destroy that independence....."

AR-RUNNAD

advises the Arab governments to recall their delegates from Lausanne because the Conciliation Commission "has more than once warmly and enthusiastically defended Zionist ambitions."

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

June 9, 1949

Review of the Local Arabic Press
Appearing on June 9, 1949.

BEIRUT

writes that Lebanon is composed of various elements, numerous communities and different religions "but the majority of its inhabitants are Moslems and Christians. It is like a bird which can not fly without using its two wings: the Moslems and the Christians, united in word and action and co-operating in weal and in woe."

Continuing, the paper declares:

"This is an obvious fact which we saw with our own eyes in our 1943 revolution. This bird - Lebanon - flapped its wings and then took by force the independence we are enjoying today....

"Since 1943 developments have taken place which froze this bird. It remained fluttering in its place, unable to fly...

"But the banquet our friend Sheikh Pierre Jumayyel, the Supreme Chief of the Balanges held last Tuesday evening in honor of our friend Dr. Anis al-Saghir, the Supreme Chief of the Najjadah, caused Lebanon - this beautiful bird - to move and to prepare itself to fly again with its Moslem and Christian wings. The atmosphere which infused this banquet was like the atmosphere in which this bird was reared: an atmosphere of brotherhood and co-operation, an atmosphere of release from all shackles. Shall we hesitate to take this flight, while the sky is clear for it?"

The editorial then maintains that Lebanon will not be able to confront Israeli unless the Phalanges and the Najjadah are determined to support the people's demands for reforms. It then enumerates these demands for the benefit of the Phalanges and the Najjadah and asks them to collaborate for their realization in the new era of understanding and co-operation.

AL-HAYAT

carries the following editorial:

"Whether Strang comes with or without Kopper, or whether Kopper comes without Strang, the existing conditions in the Arab countries are unbearable, and can not be bearable. The Arabs can not defend themselves against the weakest gust of wind which might blow their way. There is no internal protection. There is no Arab protection. There is no foreign protection. But there is dependence on fate and there are false pretenses.

"At a time when Syria is alibitting tens of millions for armament, we may ask: What are we doing in Lebanon? The Government did well when it increased the Army's appropriations last month. But ~~this~~ is this enough?

"It is claimed that Lebanon is small. But we are not smaller than Israeli. Our number - alone - is still greater than that of the Jews. Our financial potential is not less than that of the Jews, if we economize, even for a short time. If Syria completes its ~~armament~~ program, we would be able, with its military collaboration, to form a front sufficient for our protection, particularly as Iraq supports Syria militarily.

"We must, on the other hand, clarify our relations with Britain, America and France, so that we might take a clear course in our foreign policy on the one hand, and in our stand toward the Jewish peril on the other. Undoubtedly, Strang's and Kopper's visit are the best opportunity for putting the dots on the letters! "

AL-'ANBAL

reports editorially that the Ministry of Justice has addressed a note to the Council of Ministers stating that the elections at Zar'un were legal and that there is nothing to prevent a prisoner from exercising his right to vote if he has not committed a crime which deprives him of his civil rights. In strongly objecting to this ruling, the editorial takes this opportunity to attack the Government and the methods its used in the elections of the present Chamber of Deputies, and says that prisoners are normally influenced by the prison authorities and they must not therefore be permitted to take part in any elections.

AN-NAHAR

welcomes the gesture of the Phalanges by the banquet they recently held in honor of the Najjadah chief, and hopes that these two organizations will always work together for the welfare of Lebanon.

AD-DIYAR

declares that the overwhelming majority of the Lebanese newspapers, including the opposition, supported the Lebanese Government during the recent crisis with Syria, and countered the attacks of the government-controlled Syrian press against Lebanon and its leaders, except one newspaper which, AD-DIYAR complains,

"attempted to prejudice the whole of Lebanon under the influence of its own private feelings which are based on personal hatred and strange egotism. This paper wanted, or its chief editor wanted, to ignite the fire between the two countries. He therefore incited al-Zaim against Lebanon, forgetting that animosity between the two countries will kill them both and that it is not permissible for him to burn Rome in order to light his cigarette."

- 3 -

The paper then points out that Colonel Hosni al-Zaim has asked Lebanon to remove the ban on Syrian newspapers, and demands that the Government must in turn ask Damascus to permit Lebanese newspapers to enter Syria. "So that the publishers here may not say that our government does not care for them. Moreover, crises are occurring quite frequently and if the government defends the press this time, the press will support it in future crises."

AL-RUWAD

states that despite the passage of several weeks on the deliberations of the Lausanne Conference, not a single optimistic report has so far come from that direction. The paper holds the UN responsible for the calamity of Palestine and argues that the Arab states can not evade their responsibilities to the Palestinian refugees because they promised them that they would crush the Jews in a short time and that their homelessness will be rewarded with their return to live as free and independent citizens in their country. Therefore, the paper continues:

"The Arab countries regard themselves responsible for the fate of the refugees on two counts: If they regard the issue as a political-social one, they can not but insist on the repatriation of the refugees in order to uphold the original idea of regaining Palestine by force when opportunities present themselves. In view of this, it would be better for the Arab Governments to recall their delegates from Lausanne because the Jews will not abandon their obduracy unless they are compelled by the United Nations, or at least until they are warned by America and Britain. But the United Nations policy, like the policies of America and Britain, does not indicate any readiness to adopt such determined measures for the sake of repatriating the refugees.

"If the Arab states regard the refugee problem as a purely social problem and if they intend to resettle them, Mr. Lie, the UN Secretary General, has indirectly pointed out UN's views on the solution of the refugee problem. He recommends the creation of major projects along the Jordan, the Nile, the Euphrates and the Tigris rivers, similar to the TVA project. These projects will result in great economic uplift which will ~~make~~ not only ~~the~~ solve the refugee problem, but will create an economic basis for reconciling the Arabs and the Jews and for stabilizing peace in the Near East.

"Therefore, Mr. Lie is shedding light on UN's viewpoint for settling the refugee problem as a purely social issue void of any political color. The Arab governments must therefore realize this fact and must act in its light."

This paper reports that Mr. Sam Kopper arrived in Beirut yesterday and spent about two hours with Camille Shamun. (Note: Al-Hayat says that Mr. Kopper has delayed his trip to Beirut until Mr. Strang's departure from Beirut, namely, until next week.)

- 4 -

AL-HADAF

calls upon the Lebanese government to take severe measures against those Lebanese who are smuggling goods and men into Israeli and who are conducting business with the Jews.

AL-BHAFQ

headlines a report from its Damascus correspondent describing Mr. Sam Kopper's visit there as follows:

THE ANGLO-AMERICAN RIVALRY IN MIDDLE EAST HAS BECOME OPEN. AMERICA PROPOSES TO ARABS TO PLACE ARAB PORTION OF PALESTINE UNDER INTERNATIONAL TRUSTEESHIP. AMERICAN POLICY BLOCKS THE ROAD OF BRITISH POLICY

In view of the efforts that are now being made to bring the Phalanges and the Najjadah organizations closer together in the field of national co-operation, this paper compares the fundamental principles of the two organizations and emerges with the conclusion that the Najjadah believe that Lebanon is Arab and must act as such in conjunction with the rest of the Arab countries, while the Phalanges believe that Lebanon is not Arab and that its relations with the neighboring Arab states must be based on material interests only. The paper therefore feels that no good will come out of the above efforts if one of the two organizations will fail to persuade the other to embrace its principles.